

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I didn't think the South got this cold. That was the main reason for me to come down from up North, from the cold, to get away from all that stuff"

— Marty Williams, a homeless man originally from Chicago who took shelter at a church in Atlanta during the frigid weather this week

See story on Page 10

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GATES MEMOIR

Gates' brazenness met with surprise

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In excerpts from his new memoir, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates laments that "over time, the broad dysfunction of today's Washington were me down, especially as I tried to maintain a public posture of nonpartisan calm, reason and conciliation."

He's not worried about that public persona anymore.

Gates' memoir, to be released Tuesday, created a firestorm inside the Beltway this week with its sharp criticism of President Barack Obama, his senior security advisers and his commitment to the military strategy in Afghanistan.

It's a surprising departure from the reluctant and measured statesman who left town in 2011, after leading the Pentagon for two presidents during two wars.

Despite Gates' repeated promises to flee the Washington political scene for good, the book thrusts him back into the political debate over the end of the war in Afghanistan and the future of the military.

In excerpts released by news outlets, Gates also rails against

"inquisition-like treatment" and a "kangaroo-court" atmosphere of Congress, the "bureaucratic inertia" of the Pentagon, and the ineptitude of Vice President Joe Biden.

Even before the book hit store shelves, White House officials released a statement defending Biden — "The President disagrees with Secretary Gates' assessment ... Joe Biden has been one of the leading statesmen of his time" — while tiptoeing around the specifics of the criticisms leveled against Obama's plans for Afghanistan.

"Gates was always careful of crafting a respected persona, so this is quite shocking," said Gary Schmitt, a director of security studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington. "Most of what he said isn't a surprise, but it's different for someone like John McCain to say it. It's another thing for someone in a cabinet level position to come out publicly on this, and so soon."

Criticizing a sitting wartime president is also jarring, according to Larry Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank in Washington. Most war memoirs, at

least by senior officials, are published years after the fact, or after a change in administrations.

Schmitt agreed, noting that the controversy couldn't come at a worse time for a White House already sagging in popularity polls and entering the second year of a lame-duck term. Revelations of conflict over Obama's commitment to military strategy in Afghanistan will shadow Pentagon efforts to wind down the war by year's end.

When Gates stepped down, many lawmakers — including those he routinely sparred with — hailed the departing secretary as a bipartisan hero.

But Korb, a critic of Gates, said much of that legend has become overblown, and that his private interactions and policy decisions showed him to be as politically motivated as other Washington

power brokers.

"He talked about budget cuts but left with military spending higher than what even the (President George W.) Bush administration had projected," he said. "He always tried to have things both ways. Now, he's trying to say he was the good guy, no matter what problems developed since he left."

Jim Carafano, vice president of defense policy studies at the Heritage Institute, a conservative Washington think tank, said the often-stinging memoir appears out of character with Gates' past moves, including his 2007 book recounting the Cold War. That one, written more than a decade after he left the top job at the Central Intelligence Agency, did not contain the same controversy or critiques of the current administration.

Still, he's reluctant to read too deeply into motivations behind the book based solely on the excerpts. "Remember, the goal here is to be states," he said.

And, Schmitt joked, maybe Gates was sincere about getting far away from the politics of Washington "and he's burning all of the bridges so he can't return."

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Book could haunt Biden, Clinton in 2016

By CHRIS CILLIZZA
AND AARON BLAKE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former Defense Secretary Bob Gates has some choice words for Vice President Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton in his new memoir, potentially complicating their possible bids for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

In the yet-to-be-released book, titled "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War," Gates accuses Clinton of admitting that she opposed the 2007 troop surge in Iraq because she was running for president and says Biden has been wrong on almost every substantive foreign policy issue during his 40-plus years in the Senate and as vice president.

The revelations could provide ammunition in 2016 for Repub-

licans — and Democratic rivals — trying to beat back the candidacies of Biden and Clinton.

In the memoir about his time in the Obama administration, Gates writes, "Hillary told the president that her opposition to the [2007] surge in Iraq had been

political because she was facing him in the Iowa primary."

Oomph.

Just to jog your memory, Clinton announced that she opposed the Iraq surge being pushed by President George W. Bush in the days leading up to the announcement of her presidential bid. She instead proposed a freeze in troop levels in the country and advocated for a troop increase in Afghanistan.

The stories written at the time mentioned how Clinton was com-

ing under pressure from the increasingly vocal anti-war left to oppose the troop surge — particularly given that it was becoming increasingly obvious that then-Sen. Barack Obama, who, unlike Clinton, opposed the Iraq War from the start, was going to be her main rival for the nomination. Opposing the surge was cast by many political observers as a sign to the left that she had evolved since her vote for the use-of-force resolution earlier in the decade.

At one level, Gates' allegation is not at all surprising. Politicians factor in politics when making decisions? Gasp! And they occasionally adjust their policy positions based on the changing winds of public opinion? Double gasp!

But remember, this is Hillary Clinton we are talking about. And the criticism that has always

haunted her is that everything she does is infused with politics — that there is no core set of beliefs within her but rather just political calculation massed upon political calculation.

Gates has even tougher words for Biden, whom he accuses of "poisoning the well" against military leadership.

"I think he has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades," Gates writes of Biden.

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden came to Biden's defense late Tuesday, saying, "Joe Biden has been one of the leading statesmen of his time, and has helped advance America's leadership in the world. President Obama relies on his good counsel every day."

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GATES MEMOIR

Book focuses on lack of confidence, trust

By BOB WOODWARD
The Washington Post.

WASHINGTON — In a new memoir, former defense secretary Robert Gates unleashes harsh judgments about President Barack Obama's leadership and his commitment to the Afghanistan War, writing that by early 2010 he had concluded the president "doesn't believe in his own strategy, and doesn't consider the war to be his. For him, it's all about getting out."

Leveling one of the more serious charges that a defense secretary could make against a commander in chief sending forces into combat, Gates asserts that Obama had more than doubts about the course he had charted in Afghanistan. The president was "skeptical if not outright convinced it would fail," Gates writes in "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War."

Obama, after months of contentious discussion with Gates and other top advisers, deployed 30,000 more troops in a final push to stabilize Afghanistan before a phased withdrawal beginning in mid-2011. "I never doubted Obama's support for the troops, only his support for their mission," Gates writes.

As a candidate, Obama had made plain his opposition to the 2003 Iraq invasion while embracing the Afghanistan War as a necessary response to the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, requiring even more military resources to succeed. In Gates' highly emotional account, Obama remains uncomfortable with the inherited wars and distrustful of the military that is providing him options. Their different worldviews produced a rift that, at least for Gates, became personally wounding and impossible to repair.

It is rare for a former Cabinet member, let alone a defense secretary occupying a central position in the chain of command, to publish such an antagonistic portrait of a sitting president.

Gates's severe criticism is even more surprising — because to ward the end of "Duty," he says of Obama's key Afghanistan policies, "I believe Obama was right in each of these decisions." That particular view is not a universal one, like much of the debate about the best path to take in Afghanistan, since there is disagreement on how well the surge strategy worked, including among military officials.

The sometimes bitter tone in Gates's 594-page account contrasts sharply with the even-tempered images that he cultivated during his many years of government service, including stints at the CIA and National Security Council. That image endured through his nearly five years in the Pentagon's top job, beginning in President George W. Bush's second term and ending after Obama asked him to remain in the post. In "Duty," Gates describes

Gates takes aim

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates offered the following opinions in his book "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War" and in a recent essay he wrote for The Wall Street Journal.

On President Barack Obama

"As I sat there, I thought: The president doesn't trust his commander, can't stand Karzai, doesn't believe in his own strategy and doesn't consider the war to be his. For him, it's all about getting out."



On Vice President Joe Biden

"I think he has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

On former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

"I found her smart, idealistic but pragmatic, tough-minded, indefatigable, funny, a very valuable colleague, and a superb representative of the United States all over the world."



On working at the Pentagon

"I also had to battle the bureaucratic inertia of the Pentagon ... my years at the Pentagon left me even more skeptical of systems analysis, computer models, game theories or doctrines that suggest that war is anything other than tragic, inefficient and uncertain."

On Congress

"Members postured and acted as judge, jury and executioner. It was as though most members were in a permanent state of outrage or suffered from some sort of mental duress that warranted confinement or at least treatment for anger management."

his outwardly calm demeanor as a facade. Underneath, he writes, he was frequently "seething" and "running out of patience on multiple fronts."

The book, published by Knopf, is scheduled for release Tuesday. Gates writes about Obama with an ambivalence that he does not resolve, praising him as "a man of personal integrity" as he faults his leadership. Though the book simmers with disappointment in Obama, it reflects outright contempt for Vice President Joe Biden and many of Obama's top aides.

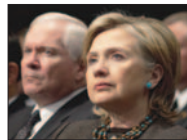
Biden is accused of "poisoning the well" against the military leadership. Thomas Donilon, initially Obama's deputy national security adviser, and then-Lt. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, the White House coordinator for the wars, are described as regularly en-

gaged in "aggressive, suspicious, and sometimes condescending and insulting questioning of our military leaders."

Gates is 70, nearly 20 years older than Obama. He has worked for every president going back to Richard Nixon, with the exception of Bill Clinton. Throughout his government career, he was known for his bipartisan detachment, the consummate team player.

While serving as defense secretary, Gates gave Obama high marks, saying privately in the summer of 2010 that the president is "very thoughtful and analytical, but he is also quite decisive." He added, "I think we have a similar approach to dealing with national security issues."

Obama echoed Gates' comments in a July 10, 2010, interview for my book "Obama's



Wars." During that interview, Obama also said he believed he "had garnered confidence and trust in Gates." In "Duty," Gates complains repeatedly that confidence and trust was what he felt was lacking in his dealings with Obama and his team. "Why did I feel I was constantly at war with everybody, as I have detailed in these pages?" he writes. "Why was I so often angry? Why did I so dislike being back in government and in Washington?"

His answer is that "the broad dysfunction in Washington wore me down, especially as I tried to maintain a public posture of nonpartisan calm, reason and conciliation."

His lament about Washington was not the only factor contributing to his unhappiness. Gates also writes of the toll taken by the difficulty of overseeing wars

against terrorism and insurgencies in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Such wars do not end with a clear surrender; Gates acknowledges having ambiguous feelings about both conflicts. For example, he writes that he does not know what he would have recommended if he had been asked his opinion on Bush's 2003 decision to invade Iraq.

Three years later, Bush recruited Gates — who had served his father for 15 months as CIA director in the early 1990s — to take on the defense job. The first half of "Duty" covers those final two years in the Bush administration. Gates reveals some disagreements from that period, but none as fundamental or as personal as those he describes with Obama and his aides in the book's second half.

"All too early in the [Obama] administration," he writes, "suspicion and distrust of senior military officers by senior White House officials — including the president and vice president — became a big problem for me as I tried to manage the relationship between the commander in chief and his military leaders."

Gates offers a catalogue of various meetings, based in part on notes that he and his aides made at the time, including an exchange between Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that he calls "remarkable."

He writes: "Hillary told the president that her opposition to the (2007) surge in Iraq had been political because she was facing him in the Iowa primary. ... The president conceded vaguely that opposition to the Iraq surge had been political. To hear the two of them making these admissions, and in front of me, was as surprising as it was disarming."

Earlier in the book, he describes Hillary Clinton in the sort of glowing terms that might be used in a political endorsement. "I found her smart, idealistic but pragmatic, tough-minded, indefatigable, funny, a very valuable colleague, and a superb representative of the United States all over the world," he wrote.

March 3, 2010

"Duty" reflects the memoir genre, declaring that this is how the writer saw it, wars and all, including his own. That focus tends to give short shrift to the fuller, established record. For example, in recounting the difficult discussions that led to the Afghan surge strategy in 2009, Gates makes no reference to the six-page "terms sheet" that Obama drafted at the end, laying out the rationale for the surge and withdrawal timetable. Obama asked everyone involved to sign on, signaling agreement.

According to the meeting notes of another participant, Gates is quoted as telling Obama, "You sound the bugle. ... Mr. President,

SEE BOOK ON PAGE 4

GATES MEMOIR

Book: Vice president among targets in scathing account

FROM PAGE 3

and Mike [Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] and I will be the first to charge the hill."

Gates does not include such a moment in "Duty." He picks up the story a bit later, after Gen. David H. Petraeus, then the central commander in charge of both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, made remarks to the press suggesting he was not comfortable with setting a fixed date to start withdrawal.

At a March 3, 2010, National Security Council meeting, Gates writes, the president opened with a "blast." Obama criticized the military for "popping off in the press" and said he would push back hard against any delay in beginning the withdrawal.

According to Gates, Obama concluded, "... If I believe I am being gamed ..." and left the sentence hanging there with the clear implication the consequences would be dire."

Gates continues: "I was pretty upset myself. I thought implicitly accusing" Petraeus, and perhaps Mullen and Gates himself, "of galling him in front of thirty people in the Situation Room was inappropriate, not to mention highly disrespectful of Petraeus. As I sat there, I thought: the

president doesn't trust his commander, can't stand [Afghanisthan President Hamid] Karzai, doesn't believe in his own strategy, and doesn't consider the war to be his. For him, it's all about getting out."

'Breaches of faith'

Lack of trust is a major thread in Gates' account, along with his unsparing criticism of Obama's aides. At times, the two threads intertwine. For example, after the devastating 2010 Haitian earthquake that had left tens of thousands dead, Gates met with Obama and Donilon, the deputy national security adviser, about disaster relief.

Donilon was "complaining about how long we were taking," Gates writes. "Then he went too far, questioning in front of the president and a roomful of people whether General [Douglas] Fraser [head of the U.S. Southern Command] was competent to lead this effort. I've rarely been angrier in the Oval Office than I was at that moment. ... My initial instinct was to storm out, telling the president on the way that he didn't need two secretaries of defense. It took every bit of my self-discipline to stay seated on the sofa."

His second year with Obama proved as tough as the first. "For me, 2010 was a year of continued conflict and a couple of important White House breaches of faith," he writes.

The first, he says, was Obama's decision to seek the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward gays serving in the military. Though Gates says he supported the decision, there had been months and months of debate, with details still to work out. On one day's notice, Obama informed Gates and Mullen that he would announce his request for a repeal of the law. Obama had "blindsided Admiral Mullen and me," Gates writes.

Similarly, in a battle over defense spending, "I was extremely angry with President Obama," Gates writes. "I felt he had breached faith with me ... on the budget numbers." As with "don't ask, don't tell," "I felt that agreements with the Obama White House were good for only as long as they were politically convenient."

Gates acknowledges forthrightly in "Duty" that he did not reveal his dismay. "I never confronted Obama directly over what I (as well as [Hillary] Clinton, [then CIA Director Leon] Panetta, and others) saw as the president's de-

termination that the White House tightly control every aspect of national security policy and even operations. His White House was by far the most centralized and controlling in national security of any I had seen since Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger ruled the roost."

It got so bad during internal debates over whether to intervene in Libya in 2011 that Gates says he felt compelled to deliver a "rant" because the White House staff was "talking about military options with the president without Defense being involved."

Gates says his instructions to the Pentagon were: "Don't give the White House staff and [national security staff] too much information on the military options. They don't understand it, and 'experts' like Samantha Power will decide when we should move militarily."

Power, then on the national security staff and now U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has been a strong advocate for humanitarian intervention.

Another time, after Donilon and Biden tried to pass orders to Gates, he told the two, "The last time I checked, neither of you are in the chain of command," and said he expected to get orders directly from Obama.

Gates says the memoir's title comes from a quote, "God help me to do my duty," that he kept on his desk. The quote has been attributed to Abraham Lincoln's war secretary, Edwin Stanton.

"Duty" offers the familiar criticism of Congress and its culture, describing it as "truly ugly."

Gates' cold feelings toward the legislative branch stand in stark contrast to his warmth for the military. He repeatedly describes his affection for the troops, especially those in combat.

Gates wanted to quit at the end of 2010 but agreed to stay at Obama's urging, finally leaving in mid-2011. He later joined a consulting firm with two of George W. Bush's closest foreign policy advisers — former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Stephen Hadley, the national security adviser during Bush's second term. The firm is called RiceHadleyGates.

In October, he became president-elect of the Boy Scouts of America.

Gates writes, "I did not enjoy being secretary of defense," or as he emailed one friend while still serving, "People have no idea how much I detest this job."

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MILITARY

Controversial Air Force general to retire

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force general whose decision last year to dismiss a sexual assault conviction led Congress to significantly curb commander authority in the military justice system announced Wednesday that he is retiring so as not to be a further "distraction" for the Air Force.

"In the last 10 months as the Commander of Third Air Force and 17th Expeditionary Air Force, my judgment has been questioned publicly regarding my decisions as a general court martial convening authority," Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin said in a statement. "This is a distraction for the Air Force and for my role as a general court martial convening authority."

The announcement came three weeks after Stars and Stripes reported that Air Force officials had taken the unusual step of removing a sexual assault case at Aviano Air Base, Italy, from Franklin's purview.

His retirement was hailed by longtime critics of the general.

"Lt. Gen. Franklin's decision... is the right one," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. "His handling of sexual assault cases is the best possible illustration of why civilian review, elimination of

commanders' ability to overturn convictions, and so many other protections are included in our recent defense bill."

For nearly a year, Franklin has been a lightning rod in the debate about military sexual assault and how best to address it, ever since he in February dismissed a court-martial jury's sexual assault conviction of then-Lt. Col. James Wilkerson, sprung the Aviano-based fighter pilot from jail and re-instated him into the Air Force.

That action was allowed under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Franklin said later he made the decision based on his belief from a review of the case that Wilkerson was a fine officer and doting husband and father who would not commit sexual assault. He said that the accuser, a civilian physician assistant who'd met Wilkerson only that night and stayed at his house after a party was less credible and said he questioned why she had not accepted a ride home instead of staying over.

Outrage over that case has dogged Franklin since.

"The last thing I want in this command is, for people to feel they cannot bring a sexual assault case forward or feel it won't be dealt with fairly," he said in his statement. "In addition, public



Franklin

"Therefore, for the good of this command and the Air Force, I plan to retire, he said.

His last day on the job is Jan. 31, his statement said.

Franklin's actions have enraged victims' advocates and a number of U.S. senators, who said it illustrated the bias military sexual assault victims face even at the highest command levels. McCaskill, a former prosecutor and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, along with Protect Our Defenders, an advocacy group for military sexual assault victims, suggested that Franklin be fired after he overturned Wilkerson's verdict and sentence.

Franklin, with nearly 33 years in the service, also had powerful defenders, among them Gen. Philip Breedlove, then commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and

scrutiny will likely occur on every subsequent case I deal with. I am concerned this could jeopardize the privacy of both the victim and the accused.

thus Franklin's boss, who now is the top U.S. commander in Europe. Emails released under the Freedom of Information Act last summer showed that Breedlove wholeheartedly backed Franklin's decision, saying in an email to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III he "stood by" the decision.

In a statement Wednesday, Welsh said of Franklin's decision to retire, "I fully respect his decision and the difficult circumstances under which he made it."

Protect Our Defenders welcomed the news of Franklin's retirement.

"Military leadership supported Franklin for far too long," Nancy Parrish, president of the victims' advocacy group, said in a statement Wednesday. "While he should have been removed a year ago, it is good to hear that they finally have done the right thing."

Since the Wilkerson case, Congress has stripped commanders of their authority to overturn jury verdicts and curtailed other largely unfettered powers. Last year, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., introduced legislation to completely remove commanders from deciding whether cases should move to court-martial, giving that authority to military prosecutors. The legislation failed

but had wide bipartisan support and was expected to be voted on again this year.

Air Force officials said last month that they had moved the more recent sexual assault case from Aviano to the Air Force District of Washington after Franklin decided against proceeding with the case because officials were concerned about the fairness of the Article 32 hearing.

Those concerns were brought to light by the accuser's special victims' counsel in a memo that Franklin, as well as three military lawyers who backed his decision, was aware of. Franklin was also criticized for not meeting with the accuser, despite her request, before making his decision.

Following Stars and Stripes' story, both McCaskill and Gillibrand called for Franklin to be fired.

"It is clear that Lt. General Franklin should not be allowed to fulfill the responsibilities of military command because he has repeatedly shown he lacks sound judgment and respect for the responsibilities held by military commanders to protect those under their authority," McCaskill said.

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THE NEW SANNO

MIDEAST

Odierno won't rule out sending troops to Iraq

By C.J. Lin
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. Army general who commanded troops during the invasion in Iraq lamented Tuesday the recapturing of two key Iraqi cities by al-Qaida-linked militants and defended the U.S. withdrawal, but left the door open for a possible return of U.S. troops.

"It's disappointing for all of us to see the deterioration of security inside Iraq," said Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, speaking at the National Press Club. The U.S. should use diplomacy to help Iraq regain control of its political process and work with its army on counterinsurgency against rebel

factions instead of sending in American troops, he said. But he didn't rule out that option.

"I think it's time for them to step up and see what they can do," he said. "We have to just wait to see ... if it becomes part of our national security interest to put people on the ground."

Two days earlier, Secretary of State John F. Kerry clearly rejected the notion of re-engagement, saying, "This is a fight that belongs to the Iraqis."

Iraq occupies a strategic location in the Middle East and maintaining a strong partnership with the country is a key goal as the United States seeks to maintain stability in the region.

Odierno's comments come

as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has emerged as one of strongest rebel units in Iraq. The militants recently gained control of Fallujah and part of Ramadi, where U.S. troops saw the heaviest fighting during the Iraq War.

Ninety-five U.S. troops were killed in combat during the second battle of Fallujah at the end of 2004, according to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Odierno said it was difficult to look back on the sacrifices made by Americans, but stressed that servicemembers accomplished their mission there. "I believe we left it in a way that enabled them to move forward. We removed a ruthless dictator," he said.

When U.S. troops left Iraq in

"We just have to wait and see ... if it becomes part of our national security interest to put people on the ground."

Gen. Ray Odierno
U.S. Army chief of staff

2011, "their economy was growing ... they had a political system in place that appeared to be working. But since those times, that political process has begun to deteriorate."

Odierno said it was "incredibly difficult" to deal with the lives that were lost. "I can never explain properly to anybody when

somebody loses their life," he said. "But I do know that in each and every one of those cases, they raised [their hand] and volunteered to be in the Army, and they were proud to do this mission, and many of them died doing the things they wanted to do."

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UN: Western Iraq faces crisis with food, water dwindling amid fighting

By SINAN SALAHREDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister urged al-Qaida-linked fighters who have overrun two cities west of Baghdad to give up the battle, vowing Wednesday to press forward with a push to regain control of the mainly Sunni areas.

The United Nations, meanwhile, warned that the area in Anbar province is facing a "critical humanitarian situation" as food and water supplies are starting to run out.

Sectional tensions have been rising in Iraq for months as minority Sunnis protested what they perceive as discrimination and random arrests by the Shiite-led government. Violence spiked after the Dec. 28 arrest of a Sunni lawmaker sought on terrorism charges and the government's dismantling of a months-old anti-government Sunni protest camp in the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi.

As clashes erupted, al-Qaida-linked gunmen assaulted Ramadi and nearby Fallujah, cities that were among the bloodiest battlefields for U.S. forces during the war. The militants overran police stations and military posts, freed prisoners and set up their own checkpoints.

The United States and Iran have offered materiel help for the Iraqi government but say they won't send in troops.

Speaking in his weekly television address, Nouri al-Maliki hinted of a possible pardon for members of al-Qaida's local branch known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant who abandon the fight.

"The war that is being fought by the Iraqi security forces, tribes and all segments of Iraqi society against al-Qaida and its affiliates is a sacred war," he said. "I call on those who were lured to be part of



AP

Gunmen gather in a street Tuesday as they chant slogans against Iraq's Shiite-led government demanding that the Iraqi army not try to enter the city of Fallujah, Iraq.

the terrorism machine led by al-Qaida to return to reason."

In return, he promised that his government will "open a new page to settle their cases so that they won't be fuel for the war that is led by al-Qaida."

U.N. envoy to Iraq Nikolay Mladenov warned that the humanitarian situation in Anbar is likely to worsen as military operations continue.

Food and water supplies in Fallujah are beginning to run out, and more than 5,000 families have fled to neighboring provinces to escape the fighting, he said.

"The U.N. agencies are working to identify the needs of the population and prepare medical supplies, food and non-food items for distribution if safe passage can be ensured," he said in a statement.

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Volume 1



Volume 2



Dr. Jin Robertson at Harvard graduation with her daughter and son



After swearing her daughter Jasmijn into the U.S. Army

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MILITARY



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY/AP

Army Capt. Joseph M. Lapoint, second from right, is congratulated for his Combat Infantryman Badge awarded by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, left, in Zabul province, Afghanistan, in November 2011. Sinclair is headed to trial in a highly publicized military sex scandal.

Defense claims Sinclair accuser lied under oath

BY MICHAEL BIESECKER
The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Defense lawyers for a U.S. Army general facing sexual assault charges say digital evidence collected from his accuser's old smartphone shows she lied under oath.

The young female captain at the heart of the government's case against Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair testified Tuesday during an evidentiary hearing at Fort Bragg.

Sinclair, 51, has pleaded not guilty to eight criminal charges including forcible sodomy, indecent acts, violating orders and conduct unbecoming an officer. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison at a court-martial scheduled to begin March 3.

The married general admits he carried on a three-year affair with the junior officer under his direct command during war tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He denies the woman's accusations that he twice ended arguments by forcing her to perform oral sex and threatened to kill her and her parents if she ever told anyone of their illicit relationship.

With the lack of any physical evidence of the alleged assaults, the success of the government's case rests largely in the accuser's credibility in testifying about what she says Sinclair did to her.

The captain testified Tuesday that on Dec. 9 shortly after what she described as a contentious meeting with prosecutors, she re-

discovered an old iPhone stored in a box at her home that still contained saved text messages and voicemails from the general. After charging the phone, she testified she synced it with her computer to save photos before contacting her attorney.

With the lack of any physical evidence of the alleged assaults, the success of the government's case rests largely in the accuser's credibility.

before the meeting with prosecutors.

She also tried to make a call and performed a number of other operations, according to the data. Her failure to immediately turn over the evidence may have violated the terms of her immunity agreement with the government to testify about her relationship with Sinclair. Adultery is a crime in the military.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assaults.

Following the hearing, Sinclair lawyer Richard Scheff said the accuser had perjured herself under oath. The defense has long claimed the captain is a scorned lover lying to avenge the general's refusal to leave his wife for her.

"When somebody lies to the government and then lies on the witness stand, then that undercuts her credibility," Scheff said. "That hurts their case."

Military prosecutors have refused to comment on the case as a matter of policy.

The defense has now retained a digital forensic expert to examine the iPhone to look for any indication the accuser altered or deleted anything before turning it over to authorities.

At several points during Tuesday's hearing, military prosecutors appeared frustrated by both the accuser and the lawyer assigned to represent her, at one point asking the judge for an urgent recess so they could confer privately.

Military Judge Col. James Pohl said he would sign an order requested by the defense for an examination of the woman's desktop computer and four other old cell phones found in the same box to see if they were used during her relationship with the general.

Pohl remarked that the forensic data from the accuser's iPhone suggests the memory of the prosecution's key witness appears "fuzzy, for the lack of a better term."

Trial is set in killing of former sniper Chris Kyle

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — The North Texas man accused of killing former Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle and another man is set to go to trial in May.

Eddie Ray Routh has been charged with two counts of capital murder in connection with the Feb. 2, 2013, slayings of Kyle, 38, and Chad Littlefield, 35, at a Glen Rose shooting range.

Routh's trial is set to begin on May 5 in Stephenville, about 100 miles southwest of Dallas.

Authorities say that after the shooting, Routh, 26, fled in Kyle's pickup. He was captured a few hours later at his sister's home in Lancaster.

Kyle is considered to be the deadliest sniper in American history. His account of life during and after war, "American Sniper," was a best-seller.

Ex-Marine freed after conviction overturned

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A former U.S. Marine has been released from prison after an appeals court overturned his conviction for possessing an AK-47 that may have belonged to a member of Saddam Hussein's royal guard.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise reported the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last month that Joel Cleve Miller should have been allowed to present testimony

from two witnesses, including his ex-wife, to back his claim that he was framed.

The U.S. Attorney's Office hasn't said whether it will seek a retrial.

Miller, 42, served nine months of his two-year sentence for the 2010 conviction.

Prosecutors said the AK-47 came from one of Hussein's palaces. Miller served in Iraq for 14 months.

Secret AF plane to be tested at Kennedy site

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Kennedy Space Center will be the testing site for a top-secret Air Force space plane.

Boeing is the contractor working on the spacecraft, and the company announced Friday that it will convert a former space shuttle building for the X-37B orbital test vehicle program.

An undisclosed number of workers will recover, refurbish and relaunch the 29-foot-long unmanned spacecraft.

The Air Force launched the most recent flight of the unmanned spacecraft from Florida's Space Coast more than a year ago.

It was the second flight for the original X-37B space plane. The craft circled the planet for seven months in 2010. A second X-37B spacecraft spent more than a year in orbit.

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

4 US airmen die in helicopter crash in UK

By Adam L. Mathis
Stars and Stripes

SALTHOUSE, England — Four U.S. airmen were killed Tuesday in a helicopter crash while conducting low-level flight training along the Norfolk coastline, the U.S. Air Force said.

The aircraft — a U.S. Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter — was assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing out of RAF Lakenheath. The crash occurred at 6 p.m. near the east England town of Salthouse, according to a news release from the wing.

The airmen, whose names are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin, were members of the 56th Rescue Squadron, according to the 48th Fighter Wing.

Authorities have secured the crash site and established a cordon around the area. Aboard the Pave Hawk were 1,200 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition, which is standard for the aircraft, according to the 48th Fighter Wing.

The investigation and cleanup at the crash site could take days, according to Norfolk Police Superintendent Bob Scully. He said the investigation is complicated by the site being on a salt marsh and covering an area about the size of a soccer field.

The crash debris has not been moved, except for some that had to be saved from the tide, and even the bodies of the four airmen may remain on site overnight to preserve the integrity of the scene.

"This is the most important element, apart from showing good respect for the deceased, is to make sure that the investigation



Stars and Stripes

is as thorough and as careful as it can be," Scully said.

According to the Norfolk Constabulary, two helicopters were involved in the training mission Tuesday, and following the crash, the second aircraft landed nearby to assist.

Ammunition from the downed aircraft is scattered across the area, which is home to a nature reserve, local authorities said.

Details about what caused the helicopter to crash are yet to emerge.

There was talk in Salthouse that something sounded off when the helicopters flew by before the crash. However, Duncan Macdonald, who was outdoors following geese when the helicopters flew by, said he did not notice if they sounded off since helicopter flights are so common here.

"You just get used to them being around," Macdonald said. "You don't tend to listen to them."

In the past year there have been multiple crashes involving Pave



CHRIS RADBURN, PA/AP

The wreckage of an Air Force Pave Hawk helicopter, partially obscured in foreground, lies on the ground in Salthouse, England, on Wednesday.

Hawk and similar helicopters operating in Japan, Afghanistan and in the Red Sea region.

In August, an Okinawa-based airman was killed when his Pave Hawk crashed during a training mission at Camp Hansen. In December, a U.S. Navy Knight Hawk helicopter crash-landed south of Yokosuka Naval Base, injuring some of the crewmembers. That crash came on the heels of a Sep-

tember Knight Hawk accident in the Red Sea which left two sailors dead. In December, six U.S. servicemen were killed when their Black Hawk UH-60 crashed in southern Afghanistan.

The HH-60G Pave Hawk, a relative of the Army's Black Hawk helicopter, is commonly used on military search-and-rescue missions around the world.

U.S. military officials are coor-

At least 1 dead in helo crash off Va.

The Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.

— One of four crewmembers who was rescued when a Navy helicopter went down off Virginia has died, the Navy said Wednesday in a statement.

The Navy said the crewman died hours after he was rescued from the Atlantic Ocean about 20 miles east of Virginia Beach and taken to a civilian hospital in Norfolk. Three other crew members are being evaluated at the hospital.

The search continues for a fifth crew member in the 42 degree seas.

The Navy identified the aircraft as an MH-53E assigned to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fourteen based at Naval Station Norfolk.

dinating the recovery efforts with United Kingdom police and the Ministry of Defence, 48th Fighter Wing officials said.

Members of the 56th Rescue Squadron recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan, where they conducted medical evacuations.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Varner contributed to this report. mathis.adam@stars.com

New high school is opened in S. Korea

Stars and Stripes

The new Humphreys High School opened its doors Wednesday, nearly five months after construction problems delayed its debut.

The facility is the first secondary school at Camp Humphreys, U.S. Forces Korea's future flagship installation, and will house middle and high school grades until a new middle school is completed.

The new Humphreys Central Elementary School opened Aug. 26 as scheduled.

Middle and high school students attended classes in the base's old elementary school during the fall semester.

The military has refused to identify the construction problems that delayed the high school's opening. However, a source with



ARMANDO R. LINON/Stars and Stripes

Clara Davis gives her students an introduction on their new class and school at the newly finished Humphreys High School on Tuesday.

knowledge of the project told Stars and Stripes that some of the deficiencies were caused by translation problems between the U.S. military and contractor Samsung C&T Corp., and ranged from drains that allowed water to run on the kitchen floor to installation of fire detectors in refrigerators.

The U.S. also failed to detect some mistakes during a pre-construction review of the contractor's design plans, the source said.

The South Korean government paid \$81.3 million for construction of the elementary and middle/high school facilities.

Ceremony to commemorate Stratotanker crash in 1999

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Shortly before touching down after a routine refueling mission on Jan. 13, 1999, the ill-fated KC-135 Stratotanker aborted an attempted landing. The pilots informed the control tower at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen that they would go around and try again.

The Washington Air National Guard air refueling tanker never made it.

The plane crashed just outside the airfield, killing all four crewmembers one day before they were to return home to Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash.

On Friday, to mark the 15th anniversary of the tragedy and honor the lives of the fallen airmen, the small NATO base near the German-Dutch border will host a remembrance ceremony. The event will take place at 11 a.m. near the memorial rock in front of the E-3A Component headquarters building.

Geilenkirchen is home to NATO's Airborne Early Warn-

ing Force Command's E-3A Component.

Crewmembers, maintenance personnel and senior leaders from Fairchild plan to attend the ceremony, according to NATO officials at Geilenkirchen.

Killed in the crash were the pilot, Maj. David Fite; co-pilot Capt. Kenneth Thiele; navigator Maj. Matthew Laiho; and Tech. Sgt. Richard Visintainer, the aircraft's boom operator. The four were serving in the Air National Guard.

An Air Force accident investigation board concluded the aircraft's pitch up to a near-vertical attitude and subsequent stall during a landing attempt were the cause of the crash, according to news reports about the investigation's findings.

A piece of equipment — called a horizontal stabilizer trim — on the aircraft's tail was in the wrong position, but investigators were unable to determine whether the trim setting was caused by mechanical failure or pilot error, according to a June 6, 1999, report in the *Kitsap Sun*, a newspaper in Washington.

MILITARY

Al-Qaida resurgence tests Obama approach

Balance sought on eliminating extremists and extricating US

BY JULIE PACE
AND LARA JAKES
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is confronted with a recent burst of strength by al-Qaida that is chipping away at the remains of Mideast stability, testing his hands-off approach to conflicts in Iraq and Syria at the same time he pushes to keep thousands of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Al-Qaida-backed fighters have fought hard against other rebel groups in Syria, in a sideshow to the battle to unseat President Bashar Assad. Across the border in Iraq, they led a surprisingly strong campaign to take two of the cities that U.S. forces suffered heavy losses to protect.

This invigorated front highlights the tension between two of Obama's top foreign policy tenets: to end American involvement in Mideast wars and to eradicate insurgent extremists — specifically al-Qaida. It also raises questions about the future U.S. role in the region if militants overtake American gains made during more than a decade of war.

In Afghanistan, Obama already has decided to continue the fight against extremists, as long as Afghan President Hamid Karzai signs off on a joint security agreement. Obama seeks to leave as many as 10,000 troops there beyond December, extending what already has become the longest U.S. war. But officials say he would be willing to withdraw completely at the end of this year if the security agreement cannot be finalized.

That would mirror the U.S. exit from Iraq, the other unpopular war Obama inherited. A spike in sectarian violence followed the U.S. withdrawal at the end of 2011, and is now followed by the recent, alarming takeover of Ra-



AP photos

Above: An Afghan man walks past a U.S. soldier standing guard during a search operation in Wardak province west of Kabul in May 2009. Below: A citizen journalism image shows Syrians inspecting the rubble of damaged buildings following a Syrian government airstrike in Aleppo, Syria, in December.

madi and Fallujah by an al-Qaida affiliate known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Marina Ottaway, a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, said the extremists taking hold in Iraq are a spillover from the conflict in neighboring Syria and have been bolstered by Obama's reluctance to arm the more moderate rebels fighting Assad.

"There is no doubt that the U.S. policy helped create a vacuum in which the only effective forces were the radical forces," Ottaway said Tuesday.

Syria's bloody civil war had not yet begun when the U.S. was making plans to withdraw from Iraq. White House officials contend that keeping American troops in Iraq would have done little to stop the current violence.

"There was sectarian conflict, violent sectarian conflict, in Iraq when there were 150,000 U.S. troops on the ground there," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. "So the idea that this would not be happening if there



were 10,000 troops in Iraq I think bears scrutiny."

Still, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, a former top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said al-Qaida and other insurgents are seeking to take advantage of sectarian tensions across much of the Mideast.

"This is not just about Iraq," Odierno told reporters Tuesday. "It's something that we have to be

cognizant of as we look across the Middle East: What's going on in Syria, what's going on in Lebanon, what's going on inside of Iraq."

Iraq now seeks more U.S. weapons, aircraft and intelligence assistance to help battle al-Qaida. Iraqi Ambassador Lukman Faily said in an interview that while Baghdad does not want U.S. troops to return, perhaps Kabul should not reject plans for Ameri-

cans to stay in Afghanistan.

"The abruptness of the U.S. forces departing from Iraq, versus our own requirement to have sovereignty at any cost, was not something beneficial for all parties," said Faily, Baghdad's top envoy to the U.S. "And what we see now is the aftermath of that. There was no clear day-after scenario."

"There is an urgent need for U.S. support," Faily said. "We see this as an issue of U.S. security being in jeopardy as well."

As many as 130,000 people have been killed in Syria, where an insurgency linked to al-Qaida has split rebel groups seeking to oust Assad. Al-Qaida attacks have also spread into Lebanon, and violence spawned by Islamic militants in Sunni-dominated Egypt has risen after last summer's ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood-led government in Cairo.

The tumult has tested Obama's opposition to American military intervention in the region's constant conflict. Critics argue that Obama has lost focus on the Mideast, giving extremists space to strengthen.

While Obama long opposed the Iraq War and has staunchly refused to send U.S. troops to Syria, he appears more comfortable leaving a small military force in Afghanistan. While it's not a war he started, it's one he did build up, flooding the country with 30,000 additional troops in 2010 in his hunt for al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Despite the renewed fighting in Iraq, administration officials argue that keeping a few thousand forces in Afghanistan after the war formally ends later this year would help stabilize the country. The CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency have warned that a withdrawal will turn the country into a lawless al-Qaida haven.

The U.S. and Afghanistan reached an agreement late last year that would allow for an American contingent to remain, but Karzai so far has refused to sign the security agreement, saying he wants his successor to do so. However, the Obama administration has said it must make plans before then and may be forced to start a full withdrawal if Karzai doesn't change his mind.



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NATION



MARK DUNCAN/AP

Ice covers rocks and brush on the break wall at Edgewater Park in Cleveland on Tuesday. An official low of -11 degrees broke the 130-year-old record for the date as cold polar air spread from the Midwest to southern and eastern parts of the U.S. and eastern Canada.

Arctic blast hangs on in States

By RAY HENRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — An arctic blast eased its grip on much of the eastern U.S. on Wednesday, with winds calming and the weather warming slightly a day after temperature records — some more than a century old — shattered.

Authorities reported at least 21 cold-related deaths across the country since Sunday. At least five people died after collapsing while shoveling snow, while several victims were identified as homeless people who either refused shelter or didn't make it to a warm haven soon enough.

In a phenomenon that forecasters said is actually not all that unusual, all 50 states saw freezing temperatures at some point Tuesday. That included Hawaii, where it was 18 degrees Fahrenheit atop Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano.

On Tuesday, the mercury plunged into the single digits and teens from Boston and New York to Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville and Little Rock — places where many people don't know the first thing about extreme cold.

"I didn't think the South got this cold," said Marty Williams, a homeless man originally from Chicago who took shelter at a



SETH PERLMAN/AP

Isabella Graff, left, and her brother Zadok Graff check on the family's beef cattle Tuesday on the Bill Graff Farm in Middelton, Ill. Farm animals can withstand frigid outside temperatures if they're cared for properly.

church in Atlanta. "That was the main reason for me to come down from up North, from the cold, to get away from all that stuff."

In Atlanta, where a record low of 6 degrees Fahrenheit hit early Tuesday, the forecast Wednesday was sunny and a more normal 42 degrees.

In the Midwest and East, where brutal polar air has lingered over the past few days, temperatures climbed Wednesday but were still expected to be below freezing.

The big chill started in the Midwest over the weekend, caused by a kink in the "polar vortex," the strong winds that circulate around the North Pole. The icy air covered about half the country by Tuesday.

With the bitter cold slowing baggage handling and aircraft refueling, airlines canceled more than 2,000 flights Tuesday in the U.S., bringing the four-day total to more than 11,000.

Natural gas demand in the U.S. set a record Tuesday, eclipsing the mark set a day earlier, according to Jack Weixel, director of energy analysis at Bentek Energy.



ANDREW WARDLOW, THE (PANAMA CITY, FLA.) NEWS HERALD/AP

Sprinklers left on overnight created an icy cover for these plants in Panama City Beach, Fla., on Tuesday.

Jobless vote plays into 2014 election year politics

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The struggle in Washington over whether to renew expired jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed is as much about providing aid to 1.3 million out-of-work Americans as it is about drawing the first political line of an election year.

Tuesday's unexpected vote in the Senate removing one obstacle to a three-month extension of aid attracted the support of six Republicans, illustrating the real-life and political pressures on some GOP lawmakers, including those from states with unemployment above the national average.

Still, the legislation's outcome is uncertain as Democrats, backed by the White House, and Republicans remain sharply divided over whether the cost of the \$6.4 billion program extension should be added to the deficit or paid for with spending cuts. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and White House officials indicated they would be receptive to cuts to offset a yearlong renewal of the program, only if Republicans would first agree to restore the benefits for three months.

The debate fits neatly into a White House strategy to focus much of this year on long-standing economic disparities and draw Republicans into a midterm fight that Democrats believe they win with the public. Income inequality and the lack of upward mobility will be a central theme of President Barack Obama's State of the Union address.

It could be a tricky emphasis. Even as Obama calls attention to what he perceives as structural economic flaws that have created a chasm between haves and have-nots, he is also trying to emphasize the economy's recovery from the Great Recession. At the same time, unemployment remains high at 7 percent and the total number of long-term unemployed is 4.1 million, a figure underscored by his call for a renewal of the emergency jobless benefits.

Eager to sustain attention on the economy, Democrats are expected to follow the debate over jobless benefits with a proposal to increase the minimum wage. The strategy matches a script laid out by Obama's pollster in November that stressed that the economy remained a voter priority.

On Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pounced on Obama and the Democrats and argued that they were complaining about the hardships facing jobless workers "as if somehow there's no responsibility for that with either the majority in the Senate or the administration."

While some conservatives have argued that jobless benefits stifle the motivation of unemployed people to look for work, most Republicans cast their objections as an issue of fiscal responsibility, making a case that the benefits should be paid for and accusing Obama of not being responsive to their proposals.

NATION

Snowden deal not part of Obama's NSA plans

By MARGARET TALEY

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and his advisers aren't discussing clemency for Edward Snowden as they draw up a response to the backlash over U.S. government surveillance, according to an administration official with knowledge of the deliberations.

Obama is set to announce limits on the National Security Agency's sprawling surveillance programs as soon as next week. The president already has signaled he favors some new limits on how telephone records are gathered and stored and creating a role for an independent civil liberties advocate at the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The former NSA contractor who triggered record worldwide scrutiny of U.S. spying isn't part of the debate, the official said.

Any deal for Snowden risks sending a message that "all future whistle-blowers should just take everything and leave the country immediately — and that's not what we want them to do," said Stewart Baker, a Washington lawyer who previously headed

Options sought for data storage

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The National Security Agency is exploring how it could relinquish control of the massive database of domestic phone logs that has been the focus of an intense national debate, according to current and former officials briefed on the discussions.

The agency, in response to political and other pressures, is examining whether there are feasible ways for third parties such as the phone companies to hold the data while still allowing the agency to exploit the records, the officials said.

The intelligence community is motivated, in part, because Congress likely will not renew the NSA's bulk collection authority when the statute it is based on expires in June 2015.

A former senior intelligence official said he expects that the White House "will start the path of shifting it to the phone companies" but that "it's not going to happen instantly."

Describing one possible scenario, a second former intelligence official said: The phone companies would run the analytics and provide you the analysis. Hey, this bad guy is talking to this bad guy."

the Department of Homeland Security's policy directorate.

The U.S. government has charged Snowden with theft and espionage for leak-

ing documents last year that unveiled the breadth of the NSA's collection of Internet and telephone records. The disclosures triggered protests from privacy advocates

and technology companies in the U.S. and from foreign leaders.

He fled the U.S., first to Hong Kong and then to Russia, where he's been granted temporary asylum. In recent weeks, advocates for Snowden have called for leniency for him.

Even an NSA official who leads a task force on leaks, Richard Ledgett, said on CBS' "60 Minutes" that amnesty or some leniency for Snowden would be "worth having a conversation about" if the U.S. could be assured that any data he still has could be secured. Ledgett's outgoing boss, Gen. Keith Alexander, has said he opposes making any deal.

Jesselyn Radack, of the Government Accountability Project in Washington, an advocacy group for whistle-blowers, and one of Snowden's legal advisers, said "a pardon or amnesty would be appropriate" for Snowden.

"It is unjust to use the Espionage Act on someone who's a whistle-blower and not a spy and has created a worldwide discussion that even the president has said needs to be had," said Radack, who's one of Snowden's legal advisers.

Retired lawmen charged in scam

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One retired police officer who told the government he was too psychologically damaged to work ran a martial arts studio, prosecutors said. Another claimed his depression was so crippling it kept him housebound, but he was photographed aboard a watercraft, they said. A third man who said he was incapable of social interactions manned a cannoli stand at a street festival.

All were wrongly receiving thousands of dollars in federal disability benefits, prosecutors said Tuesday in announcing a sweeping fraud case involving scores of retired officers, firefighters and jail guards. The retirees falsified psychiatric problems, authorities said, and many falsely claimed their conditions arose after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The brazenness is shocking," Manhattan District Attorney

Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said.

More than 100 people were arrested, including 72 city police officers, eight firefighters, five correction officers and one Nassau County Police Department officer.

Four ringleaders coached the former workers on how to feign depression and other mental health problems that allowed them to get payouts as high as \$500,000 over decades, Vance said. The ringleaders made tens of thousands of dollars in secret kickbacks, he said.

Defense lawyers said the four staunchly denied the accusations, and some noted their clients had legitimate jobs helping people seek benefits.

Police Commissioner William Bratton said the arrests represented an effort to ensure "the memories of those who did, in fact, contribute their lives or their physical well-being to dealing

with 9/11 are not sullied."

Over 26 years, the workers arrested collected about \$22 million in bogus benefits, authorities said, and more arrests could follow. Prosecutors estimate hundreds more people and as much as \$400 million may be involved.

The defendants said they couldn't drive, shop or handle their finances, yet one piloted a helicopter and another played blackjack in Las Vegas, prosecutors said. One traveled to Indonesia and boasted on YouTube about his investment prowess, they said.

The president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Patrick Lynch, said the union didn't condone the filing of false claims but people shouldn't forget "there are serious psychological illnesses resulting from the devastating work performed by first responders following the attack on the World Trade Center" and from police work in general.



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

With less than a full week on the job, New York City's new police commissioner, William J. Bratton, has to contend with the arrests of 72 retired police officers for fraudulently obtaining disability benefits.

Former banker accused of fraud seeking bond

STATESBORO, Ga. — A judge must decide whether a former Georgia banker accused of stealing millions from investors should be freed on bond after he spent the past 18 months eluding authorities.

Aubrey Lee Price, 47, was scheduled to appear Wednesday for a bond hearing before a federal magistrate judge in Statesboro.

Authorities say Price misspent, embezzled and lost \$21 million before he vanished in June 2012, leaving letters that indicated he planned to commit suicide.

A judge declared Price dead a year ago, but he was arrested last week during a traffic stop.

From The Associated Press



Price

Calif. judge increases verdict in lead paint case to \$1.15B

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A California judge has increased by \$50 million the amount that paint makers will have to pay into a fund to remove lead paint from homes across the state.

Santa Clara County Superior

Court Judge James P. Kleinberg on Tuesday issued a final verdict ordering Sherwin Williams, National Lead and ConAgra to pay \$1.15 billion after finding that the companies knew the paint was harmful to children.

A tentative ruling issued in December after a five-week non-

jury trial had said the companies would have to pay \$1.1 billion.

Throughout the case, the industry had argued that the old paint is not a significant public health risk and that the companies never deliberately sold a harmful product.

Kleinberg rejected those argu-

ments Tuesday, citing documents dating to 1900.

The 10 jurisdictions awarded damages are the counties of Santa Clara, Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Mateo, Solano and Ventura, and the cities of Oakland, San Diego and San Francisco.

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OPINION

Civilian victims of war deserve focus

By EDWARD WASSERMAN

Just before Christmas I heard a report on public radio concerning "moral injury" among Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. That's the psychic trauma caused by acting or witnessing acts that conflict with core values — brutalizing prisoners, for instance, or killing children.

A push is on to recognize moral injury as a distinct condition within post-traumatic stress disorder and treat it with customized interventions. The pain that the soldier in the report suffered, after he and his buddies wiped out an Iraqi family of five whose car inexplicably failed to slow for a checkpoint, needs a different label and more calibrated care than other post-combat miseries that afflict soldiers.

My reaction to this account was layered. I was heartened by the sensitivity and ingenuity mental health professionals were bringing to healing the thousands of U.S. military scarred by their service in these wars.

I was also impressed, once again, by how serious the news media's coverage has been of today's veterans. As early as 2007 conditions in the Army's flagship Walter Reed Hospital prompted Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage by The Washington Post. The problems of brain injury, suicide rates, prosthetics, unemployment, psychological impairment, and the adequacy of the Veterans Administration's response, continue to get sustained, compassionate news treatment unlike any that Vietnam-era veterans ever saw.

That's all for the good.

But there was also something disturbing about how this report on moral injury among our soldiers exemplified this country's boundless capacity for self-absorption. It comes amid a gaping absence of media attention to the horrendous damage

suffered by others in the same wars.

Suppose the operator of a U.S. drone — seated at a computer screen in Nevada and acting on bad intelligence — targets a wedding party in Afghanistan with a Hellfire missile that kills 50 celebrants. He later learns they had no military "value."

Although the drone pilot was just doing his job, the indispensable finger on the trigger was still his, and because he has a conscience he's stricken with remorse. He deserves compassion and help. He also deserves media attention.

But so do the people who were the most direct victims of this incident — the dead and mangled Afghans, their families, the people caught up in the swells of sorrow and loss that were churned out of that horrific moment. But unlike the drone operator, they aren't seen or heard from, except when their leaders protest to ours — complaints that our media frame as empty posturing.

Why do the media have so little place in their editorial imaginations for the pain of these wars when the people hurting aren't ours? Why do they dwell on a bruised fist while ignoring the face it shattered?

While the coverage of veterans is a major improvement in the media's approach from what it was in the late '60s and '70s, it has come alongside the virtual disappearance from coverage of civilian suffering.

During Vietnam, it was impossible to ignore the vast harm to noncombatants. We have seen the pictures — the GI setting fire to the hut's thatched roof with his Zippo, the screaming little girl scorched by napalm, the women and children massacred at My Lai. These were that war's signature images.

What are the comparable images of Iraq and Afghanistan? Perhaps the staged pull-down of the statue of Saddam Hussein in 2003, President Bush's staged "mission ac-

complished" speech, the charred bodies of the U.S. contractors in Fallujah.

As for civilians? The most memorable pictures weren't from the media at all, but from the 2007 gunsite footage of Baghdad being killed by a U.S. helicopter gunship, the purloined Collateral Murder video, And Chelsea Manning (the former Bradley Manning), who leaked the video, got no press awards; he got 35 years for disclosing secrets.

And plenty of civilians have been maimed and killed. The Iraq Body Count project estimates between 119,000 and 132,000 violent deaths of noncombatants since the 2003 U.S. invasion (out of a total of 184,000 Iraqi deaths). In Afghanistan, the U.N. mission there estimates just over 16,000 civilian deaths from 2007 through 2012.

The point is not that U.S. forces killed those people. They didn't. An estimated four-fifths of Afghan civilians were the victims of anti-government violence, and the nearly 10,000 Iraqis killed last year died at the hands of their countrymen.

But those are wars that this country launched, and they're continuing, largely unnoticed by the U.S. public, which has never been asked to look at the full range of destruction and heartbreak they have brought.

That obviousness has consequence, as policymakers in Washington once again talk boldly of military strikes in Syria, in Libya, in Iran, secure in the belief that they won't be answerable for the impact of such actions. They may even remain unaware of it, and unlike those combat veterans, will never need to seek absolution for their own moral injury.

Edward Wasserman is dean of the University of California-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. This column first appeared in The Miami Herald.

What makes for a winning name in politics?

Chicago Tribune editorial

She was a political novice who wanted to start at the top by running for the U.S. Senate seat in a state where she hadn't lived for decades. Her maiden campaign had more than its share of snafus. She paid a fine for obtaining a resident Wyoming fishing license despite not meeting the residence requirement. When she opposed same-sex marriage, she found herself in a public spat with her sister's lesbian partner. But Liz Cheney figured she had something that would flatten all obstacles, a famous political name and its connections that go with it.

It didn't turn out quite as she hoped. The incumbent Republican she was challenging, Mike Enzi, reportedly enjoyed a big lead in internal polls. She didn't get the warmest of welcomes from GOP politicians in Wyoming, who resented the internal fight. U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis said Cheney, who previously resided in the Washington area, "should run from Virginia." The state's other senator, John Barrasso, endorsed Enzi, as did Alan Simpson, who represented the state for three terms in the Senate. On Monday, she withdrew, citing unspecified "serious health issues" in her family.

Political nepotism is an old American tradition. John Quincy Adams, the sixth president, was the son of the second, John Adams. Cheney is not the first to demonstrate its limits. Bill Daley, brother of the longtime mayor of Chicago, gave up his campaign for governor of Illinois after

In election campaigns, name recognition is often half the battle. Political brands are like commercial brands: They convey instant information about what to expect.

two months. Caroline Kennedy, who let it be known she'd like to be appointed to the Senate seat vacated when Hillary Clinton became secretary of state, withdrew amid the sort of unfavorable publicity she had never faced before. (She later got a consolation prize, the job of ambassador to Japan.)

But these are more the exception than the rule. Truth is, many a successful politician has pulled relatives along on his coat-tails. Ted Kennedy won his brother John's Senate seat in 1962 over an opponent who jeered, "If your name was simply Edward Moore instead of Edward Moore Kennedy, your candidacy would be a joke." It's unlikely George W. Bush would have been elected governor of Texas had he chosen a different father.

Richard M. Daley, of course, made his way to City Hall with the help of many people who had worked for his father, Richard J. Daley. Rep. Dan Lipinski was a professor at the University of Tennessee when dad Bill decided to retire from Congress in 2015 and arranged to have his son take his place on the November ballot. John Dingell has been in Congress since 1955, when he won a special election to fill a House seat

that opened up with the death of his father, who had occupied it since 1933. Even the son of former Vice President Dan Quayle got elected to Congress from Arizona.

In election campaigns, name recognition is often half the battle. And a name that has strong, positive associations in the mind of voters is even more valuable. Political brands are like commercial brands: They convey instant information about what to expect. Target has a strong identity, and so does Tiffany. When citizens vote for a Kennedy, they have a pretty good sense of how that candidate will come down on major issues. Bushes, by the same token, are not known as fervent ideologues but as mainstream conservatives.

Liz Cheney's pedigree might be fatal in many states, but it didn't hurt her in deep-red Wyoming, which her father once represented in the House. On the contrary, it was an asset that made an otherwise preposterous candidacy plausible.

Maybe she'll stick around her new house in Jackson Hole and eventually run for office again. In that case, the first piece of advice she'll need is any campaign strategist will be: Whatever you do, don't change your name.

OPINION

It's crunch time for Kerry and a Mideast peace deal

By ANNE GEARAN
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM

Secretary of State John Kerry is trying — doggedly, relentlessly, exhaustingly — to make peace in the Middle East. And as he has shown over the past week on this, his 10th round of shuttle diplomacy to the region, he has become part broker, part bulldozer.

In hours of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Kerry laid out what he calls a framework for a peace deal that would establish an independent Palestinian state and end a conflict dating to Israel's creation as a nation.

He has tried to get each side to drop petty politicking and look to history. He has made pit stops across the region — paying calls on Jordan's King Abdullah II and Saudi King Abdullah on Sunday — to rally support for the peace project.

Since he began his peacemaking bid, Kerry has bet that a combination of attractive proposals for each side, support and pressure from the United States and other nations, and the sheer force of his will can help make a deal that eluded past Middle East leaders and U.S. envoys.

But six months into the process, there are doubts. Netanyahu and Abbas have yet to meet face to face since Kerry wheedled and pushed them to renew stalled negotiations. Teams of negotiators have met about 20 times, keeping at it in the face of public frustration and finger-pointing.

With the stated aim of a deal by the end of April, it's crunch time — a reality the secretary of state is trying to impress on others.

"Now is not the time to get trapped in the sort of up and down of the day-to-day challenges," Kerry said Sunday. "This does not lend itself to a daily tick-tock. We don't have the luxury of dwelling on the obstacles that we all know could distract us from our goal. What we need to do is lift our sights and look ahead, and keep in mind the vision of what can come if we can move forward."

The latest trip began, not by accident, on New Year's Day. Unless talks fall apart, Kerry is expected to shuttle repeatedly over the next four or more months in an



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AP

Secretary of State John Kerry, left, listens as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu makes a statement during a press conference before their talk at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on Jan. 2. Kerry said finding peace between Israel and the Palestinians is not "mission impossible."

all-out drive to complete the deal. The framework, if Kerry can sell it, would be a significant step. It is intended to be a fairly detailed architecture that addresses all the biggest obstacles to peace, including borders of the future Palestine and the jurisdiction of disputed Jerusalem.

"Once they have a shared vision of what that will look like, then it will become easier to finalize the details," a senior official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss some aspects of the largely secret negotiations said.

The official and Kerry have both gotten tangled in terminology and the long, troubled history of failed Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. The Americans are trying to describe the framework idea without sending signals that this initial agreement would be a substitute for a full peace deal.

Although it would be a placeholder or

interim agreement on the way to the final deal, U.S. negotiators don't want to call it that. In the freighted terminology of the Middle East, an "interim agreement" connotes failure and invites Palestinian skepticism that they will be asked to settle for something less than full sovereignty.

"I want to reiterate: We are not working on an interim agreement," Kerry said Sunday. "We are working on a framework for negotiations that will guide and create the clear, detailed, accepted road map for the guidelines for the permanent status negotiations, and can help those negotiations move faster and more effectively."

Kerry was echoing the language of past failed attempts even as he made the point that he's trying something new. The "road map" is a largely discarded 2002 peace plan advanced by the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and

Russia. And "permanent status negotiations" is diplo-speak for the nitty-gritty of establishing a free and independent Palestine on land Israel has occupied since 1967.

On Monday, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz had fun with the "framework" concept. An editorial cartoon by Amos Biderman shows Kerry, trademark coif in perfect place, trying to squeeze the scowling figures of Abbas and Netanyahu into a picture frame. They are standing too far apart to fit.

Yet, for all the sarcasm, there is hope in some quarters here. The Jerusalem Post credited Kerry for "single-handedly and with prodigious exuberance" breathing life into the peace process.

"Kerry's indefatigable efforts," the newspaper wrote in an editorial, "deserve to be praised and supported."

Among Asia's leaders, some unfinished family business

By JOSHUA KEATING
State

AMID escalating tensions in the East China Sea, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seems to be letting his nationalist flag fly. Last week he made a visit to the controversial Yasukuni shrine, which honors Japan's World War II dead, including a number of convicted war criminals, and is an important symbol for Japan's nationalist far right. It was the first visit to the shrine by a sitting prime minister since 2006. Then, in a New Year's comment published this week, Abe predicted that the country's post-war constitution, which limits its military to self-defense, "will have been revised" in 2020 when Tokyo hosts the Olympic Games.

"Now is the time for Japan to take a big step forward toward a new nation-building effort, Abe wrote. "We will resolutely protect to the end Japan's territorial land, sea and air."

Both Japan's wartime actions and post-war demilitarization are somewhat personal issues for Abe, whose grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, was commerce minister during the war and served as prime minister in the 1950s.



Abe

Kishi had been accused by the Americans of war crimes and later opposed the adoption of the pacifist constitution. For obvious reasons, the Kim family of North Korea gets most of the international attention, but we're actually at an interesting moment right now where the major Northeast Asian rivals are all ruled by leaders with controversial family legacies.

In Japan, there's Abe, whose father was also foreign minister in the 1980s. In South Korea, President Park Geun-hye is the daughter of authoritarian President Park

Chung-hee, who ruled for nearly two decades after taking power in a military coup in 1961. Park has apologized for some of the abuses committed during her father's rule, though hasn't condemned him outright. She's differed with her father's legacy on some key issues of foreign policy, such as pushing for closer relations with North Korea. Though her father signed the treaty that normalized relations with Japan in



Park

1965, Geun-hye has been more skeptical, recently spurning a Seoul-Tokyo summit and pushing the Japanese government for a more comprehensive apology for its wartime actions.

President Xi Jinping's father, Xi Zhongxun, gets less attention in China. One of Mao Zedong's top lieutenants, then one of the most prominent victims of his purges, the

elder Xi was known as something of a moderate by Chinese standards, an economic reformer who reportedly opposed the Tiananmen crackdown in 1989. It's not yet quite clear whether the younger Xi identifies more with his father's early career as a revolutionary or later days as a voice for moderation and reform, and not surprisingly, official biographies have tended to downplay his famous father.

The current round of tensions in Northeast Asia sometimes seems, from the outside, to have exploded out of nowhere, but for the countries involved, they have roots dating at least to World War II, if not further.

So it seems noteworthy that the countries involved all seem to be led by figures with some unfinished family business to attend to.



Xi

NATION

Cargo bike users are eager spokespeople

Riders' wheels are turning as they rethink how to haul kids and goods

By PHUONG LE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — One fisherman uses a bike to deliver hundreds of pounds of salmon to local markets. A mom who regularly shuttles her two kids around town once tried to haul a twin mattress home. Some companies are using the bikes to deliver beer kegs or pick up recycling.

Cyclists are pushing the limits of what they can haul on cargo bikes — sturdy two-wheelers built to haul lots of stuff. The so-called SUVs of bicycles are increasingly popular in pedal-friendly communities, from Washington state to Massachusetts.

Families are using the bikes to do everything they did on four wheels — schlepping kids to school, hauling groceries or running errands — without the hassle of finding parking. Some do it to help the environment in a small way or get exercise, while others say it's an easier, more fun way to get around.

"[Our] bike has turned into our go-everywhere minivan," said Julian Davies, a Seattle physician who regularly hauls his two kids on a cargo bike.

Companies also are using bikes to deliver beer around Portland, Ore., collect recycling in Cambridge, Mass., and pick up dirty laundry in Philadelphia.

Cargo bikes are common in European countries such as Den-

mark and the Netherlands, but they're catching on in the U.S. Companies such as Xtracycle, Yuba and Metrofiets are catering to this niche, while major bike makers, such as Trek, are also developing their own lines.

It's still in the early adopter phase, but "it's picking up steam," said Andy Clarke, president of the League of American Bicyclists. "It's a reflection of the growing utility of cycling, and the propensity to use bikes for more and more activities. It's giving people more options and flexibility."

A cargo bike can refer to any bike that hauls heavy loads. Many models out now are built to handle multiple people or loads up to about 400 pounds on a single frame. They can be a foot or two longer than typical bikes, and are often outfitted with a wheelbarrow-like box or shelf, in front or back. Some cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

"If you want to park your car, this is the way to go," said Joel Grover, co-owner of Splendid Cycles in Portland. The shop opened four years ago mostly to sell to businesses, but quickly began catering to families who wanted wheels to handle more than one kid.

"We're reaching a point where all these cities are encouraging people to go places by bike," co-owner Barb Grover said.

Seattle did Davies have logged about 2,000 miles on his cargo



PHOTOS BY ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Madi Carlson pedals as her sons, Rijder, 4, right, and Brandt, 6, ride aboard the family cargo bike as they head to an after-school gym program in Seattle.

bike. A rain cover and electric assist help him power through Seattle's rain and hilly terrain. His two young kids sit in a large front box built between the handlebars and front wheel.

It's more convenient to take the bike for errands because it's easier to park, he said. But he enjoys the social aspect of being able to chat with his kids as he rides.

Madi Carlson, 41, regularly

schlepps her two young kids on her pink long-tail bike, which has kids' seats mounted over the rear of the bike. The three usually cover about 10 miles a day, riding between school, home, playdates and errands.

The Seattle mom considers it a challenge to carry absurd loads. She once tried to haul a box spring mattress, and made it six blocks before she had to call her

husband for a lift.

"That damn box spring," she said, laughing. "That's one of the problems with cargo bikes. You just want to carry bigger and more exciting loads. You just want to see what you can do."

As for safety, Carlson said she bikes slowly and defensively and sticks to dedicated bike paths where possible. "I worry a lot more about accidents in the car," she said.

Randy Swart, director of the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, said he hasn't seen studies on cargo bike safety, but "most of them seem very stable."

"From what I've seen, not from scientific evidence, they seem like a pretty reasonable solution for carrying kids."

The American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines recommends not taking infants under a year old on bicycles. It says children should ride in a bicycle-towed child trailer, wear helmets and be strapped in. It warns of risks of serious injury when carrying a young child on a bike.

Delivering salmon by bike has been good publicity for Rick Oltman, whose company bikes can be spotted in Port Townsend, Wash., near Seattle.

"People wave. We have huge fan clubs," said Oltman, owner of Cape Clear Fishery. "It's not to save the world. It's mostly that we enjoy bicycling. My butt was getting flat sitting in a white van and I didn't want to do that anymore."

Carlson's enthusiasm has caught on. Two friends have bought similar cargo bikes and have started riding.

"Sometimes just seeing one person do it plants a seed," she said.



Heidi Lappetto pedals her cargo bike while making a delivery of frozen salmon into Port Townsend, Wash. Nearly all salmon deliveries the Cape Clear Fishery makes to its local customers are done by cargo bikes hauling loads of up to 180 pounds about 5 miles into town.

WORLD



DOLORES OCHOA/AP

Runnin' with the devil

A man wearing a devil's mask dances in La Diablada in Pillaro, Ecuador, on Monday to celebrate the end of the year and the start of the new one. The town of Pillaro kicks off the feast of La Diablada with neighborhoods competing to bring in as many people as possible dressed as different characters. Originally the devil costume was used to open up space to allow other participants to dance, but over the years the character gained popularity and became the soul of the feast.

Syrian rebels seize al-Qaida base in Aleppo

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels on Wednesday seized control of a hospital in the northern city of Aleppo that was used as a base for the area by their al-Qaida rivals, activists said.

The capture of the hospital was a boost for the rebels, who only the day before saw 20 of their fighters killed in an al-Qaida suicide car bombing in the northern city of Darkoush, said the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

It also underscores the intensity of the rebel infighting that has raged for days between Syrian rebels and their one-time allies, fighters from the

extremist Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Also in Aleppo, the Observatory said a series of government airstrikes in two rebel-held suburbs late Tuesday night killed 19 people. There were no further details. The government in Damascus did not comment on the bombings.

The two main rebel camps in Syria fighting against President Bashar Assad's troops — a chaotic array of rebel brigades and the al-Qaida-linked group — turned their guns on each other last Friday. The clashes have since become the most serious rebel infighting since the uprising against Assad began in March 2011.

Slain actress symbol of Venezuelan crime

By FRANK BAJAK
AND JORGE RUEDA
The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — A popular soap-opera actress and former Miss Venezuela, Monica Spear surely could have afforded to vacation elsewhere.

Yet she and her ex-husband, who worked in the travel industry, spent New Year's in the mountains of western Venezuela with their 5-year-old daughter then visited the plains of Apure state.

On their return by car to Caracas, Spear, 29, and Thomas Henry Berry, 39, a British citizen, became the latest symbols of the rampant violent crime that is afflicting this oil-rich nation.

Robbers shot and killed the two and wounded their daughter on an isolated stretch of highway when they tried to foil the assault by locking themselves inside their car, which had been disabled by tire punctures, police said Tuesday.

The slayings late Monday outraged Venezuelans, triggering a



Spear

wave of calls for action on social media. TV personality Camila Canabal expressed what many were feeling in a tweet: 'Sadness, anger, indignation, impotence, shame and pain, pain, pain, dammit!!!'

"Monica and Thomas are the face of thousands of men and woman whose children have been left without parents because of the violence of Venezuela," she added.

Their daughter, Maya, was in stable condition after treatment for a leg wound and was with relatives in Caracas, authorities said.

Fatal shootings are common during armed robberies in Venezuela, and rampant kidnapping has ensnared even foreign ambassadors and professional baseball players.

Violent crime soared during the 14-year rule of Hugo Chavez, who died of cancer last March. The country has one of the world's highest murder rates — the United Nations has ranked it fifth globally.

The slaying of Spear and her ex-husband followed a pattern of late-night assaults carried out by disabling cars with obstacles placed on roadways.

Police in Puerto Cabello arrested five suspects, some under the age of 18, said Jose Gregorio Siercelia, the director of the country's investigative police.

Cops arrest 4 in Italy quake rebuilding case

ROME — Police have arrested four people on suspicion of accepting bribes in the awarding of contracts to rebuild the central Italian city of L'Aquila following its devastating 2009 earthquake.

L'Aquila's police squad director, Maurizio Grasso, said during a news conference Wednesday that four more are under investigation and that police searched the offices in city hall and L'Aquila's public health department where some of the suspects worked.

More than 300 people were killed and thousands of buildings in L'Aquila and the Abruzzo region were damaged by the April 6, 2009, temblor.

India takes aim at US diplomats' privileges

NEW DELHI — India chipped away at America's diplomatic perks Wednesday, ordering envoys to obey local traffic laws and warning that a popular U.S. Embassy club violates diplomatic law because it is open to outsiders.

The move was the latest in a campaign to exert pressure on the U.S. following the arrest and strip search last month of Devyani Khobragade, an Indian diplomat based in New York City.

Khobragade, 39, is accused of paying her Indian maid less than the U.S. minimum wage and lying about it on a visa application.

South Sudan talks stall over political prisoners

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Peace talks have stalled, a rebel commander is claiming big victories against the government and Uganda is sending in more military troops and hardware.

Even as several dozen people held a peace march in South Sudan's capital, Juba, on Wednesday, there is little evidence that the conflict is moving toward resolution more than three weeks after spiraling violence broke out.

Two officials in Ethiopia said Wednesday that peace talks have stalled over the issue of political prisoners. The special envoy of a bloc of East African countries known as IGAD has flown to Juba, the capital of South Sudan, to speak about political detainees.

Diapers in dump truck trip radioactive alarms

VIENNA — Austrian hazmat specialists called in after Geiger counters showed alarming readings for a dump truck arriving at an incinerator found the problem — radioactive adult diapers.

After unloading the truck, firefighters from the city of Linz found nearly two dozen diapers from a hospital that had become contaminated with radioactive iodine. The substance is swallowed during some medical and diagnostic procedures.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Barber looks to set quick-cut mark

MI DETROIT — A Michigan barber is hoping to find his way into the record books with some quick work.

Bryan (B-Doge) Price wants to set a Guinness World Records mark for completing the most male haircuts in an hour. The Detroit Free Press reported Price needs to complete 35 haircuts, but he said his personal goal is 40.

Price, 46, is planning the record attempt April 6. He plans to use two cordless clippers at the same time and move back and forth between the two chairs.

Elephant exposed to extreme cold

MA NEW BEDFORD — A Massachusetts zoo is monitoring the health of one of its elephants closely after it was exposed to extreme cold during last week's snowstorm.

Officials at Buttonwood Zoo in New Bedford said Ruth, a 55-year-old Asian elephant, escaped from her heated barn sometime between 5 and 7 a.m. Friday at the height of the storm with temperatures around zero. Someone forgot to padlock the door.

Zoo Director Keith Lovett told The Standard-Times Ruth was brought inside as soon as staff noticed.

Police: In cold, escaped inmate turns himself in

KY FRANKFORT — Just how cold is it in Kentucky? Apparently cold enough for an escaped prisoner to decide to turn himself in.

Authorities said the inmate escaped from a minimum security facility in Lexington on Sunday. As temperatures dropped into the low single digits Monday, officials said the man walked into a motel and asked the clerk to call police.

Robert Vick, 42, of Hartford, told the clerk he wanted to turn himself in and escape the arctic air, Lexington police spokeswoman Sherelle Roberts said.

"This was definitely of his own volition," she said. "It's cold out there, too cold to run around. I can understand why the suspect would turn himself in."

Town's municipal code still full of weird laws

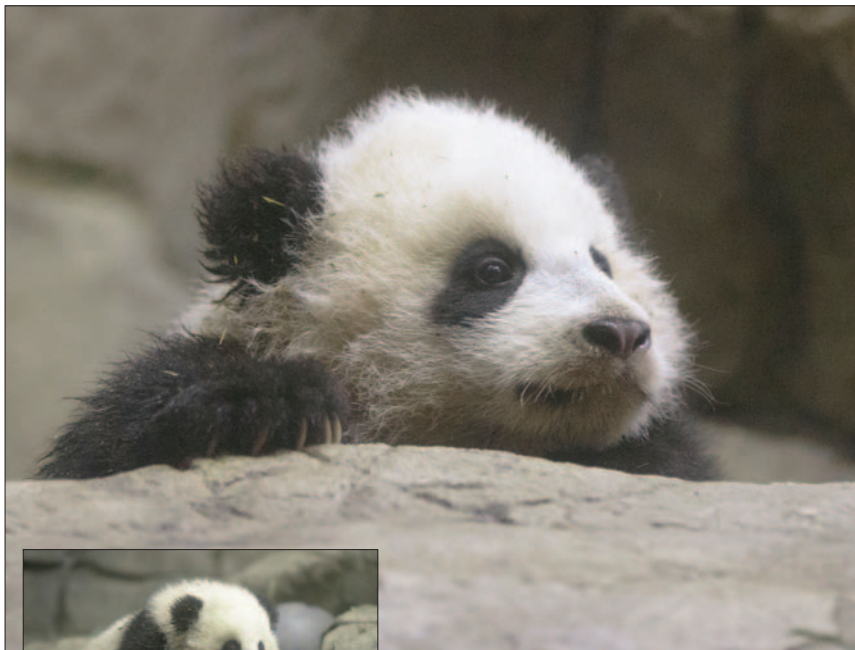
AI SELMA — Selma residents may be unaware they are breaking the law, but then again, they may have to worry about being caught.

Selma Municipal Judge Prince Chestnut said several antiquated laws remain in Selma's Municipal Code. For example, any man or woman guilty of adultery or fornication is guilty of an offense against the city, according to city documents.

Chief of Police William Riley said he doesn't actively enforce outdated ordinances, such as adultery being illegal.

Other little-known laws make it illegal to be drunk at a polling booth or spread false rumors about disease.

Also on the books are laws prohibiting sniffing model glue and cursing at women.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP



Pandamonium

Bao Bao, a 4½-month-old giant panda, makes her public debut at an indoor habitat at the National Zoo in Washington on Monday. Bao Bao, who weighs 16.9 pounds, was born to the zoo's female giant panda, Mei Xiang, and male giant panda, Tian Tian.

THE CENSUS

1,569,300

The heat of a batch of Carolina Reaper peppers measured in Scoville Heat Units. The heat scale for peppers rates a regular jalapeno around 5,000 units. Pepper spray weighs in at about 2 million Scoville Units. Bland is 0 units. The Carolina Reapers were recently declared the hottest pepper on earth by Guinness World Records.



803

The number of manatee deaths in Florida in 2013, the most since such record-keeping began in the 1970s, state wildlife officials said. It accounts for about 16 percent of Florida's estimated population of 5,000 manatees. Scientists blame a bloom of red tide algae along the coastline and a mysterious ailment affecting manatees in the Indian River Lagoon.

Customs: No apology for destroying rare flutes

DC WASHINGTON — U.S. customs officials destroyed 11 rare flutes owned by a respected Canadian musician who was returning home via New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. But the agency isn't apologizing for the incident — it says the flutes were an ecological threat.

Officials at U.S. Customs and Border Protection identified the instruments owned by flute virtuoso Boujema Razgui as agricultural products that risked introducing "exotic plant pathogens" to the United States, a customs official told Foreign Policy. As a result, officials destroyed every single flute

without contacting Razgui.

Razgui said there are around 15 people in the U.S. with such flutes.

Rural school district may return to 5-day weeks

MN ST. PAUL — North Branch, one of the nine rural Minnesota school districts with a four-day school week, is considering going back to five-day weeks.

The district switched to four-day weeks in 2009 to save money on energy, transportation, and substitute teachers. But last session, the Legislature made a change to the state education funding formula that would give the 3,200-student district north

of the Twin Cities a boost of more than \$1.5 million in per-pupil funding starting next fall.

Superintendent Deb Henton told Minnesota Public Radio that she's recommended using the money to return to a five-day week.

Musician plans to seek House seat

WV CHARLESTON — Michael Ari Pushkin is one of a very few candidates who could rock the house at one of his own campaign fundraisers.

In fact, you're likely to hear him do just that.

"I plan on playing at all of them," Pushkin said.

Pushkin, who has helmed popu-

lar West Virginia bands from the Joint Chiefs to 600 LBS of Sin!, recently filed pre-candidacy papers to run for the W.Va. House of Delegates in the 37th District.

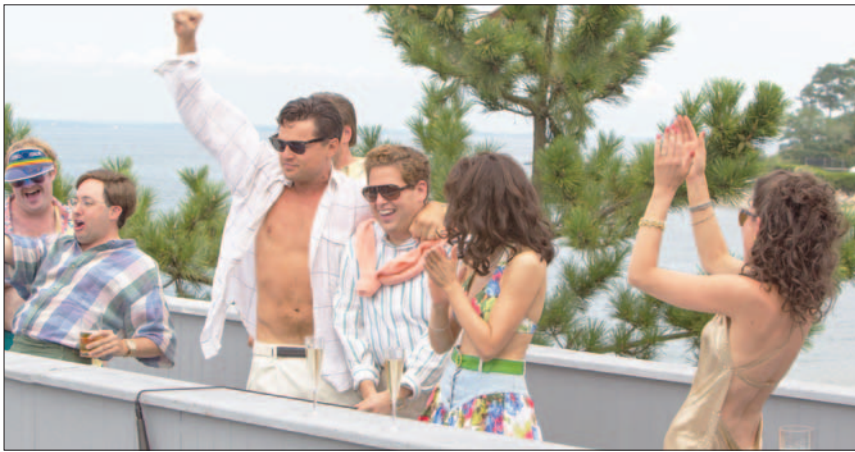
Pushkin feels he is well suited to represent the 37th District, which covers Charleston's downtown, East End and West Side.

"I feel I know the district very well," he said. "I work with the people every day in the district. I've lived in this district a long time; my family has lived in this district a lot longer than that."

When not playing music, Pushkin drives a cab at night as he has done so for a decade. "It's a perfect job for a musician," he said. "We're independent contractors and get to make our own hours."

From wire reports

FACES



Paramount Pictures

Leonardo DiCaprio, third from left, with co-star Jonah Hill, plays Jordan Belfort in "The Wolf of Wall Street." The movie is based on a book by Belfort, a former stockbroker convicted of fraud. Some critics have wondered if the film glorifies greed.

Hedonistic high of 'Wolf' stirs debate

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

In "The Wolf of Wall Street," out-of-control stockbroker Jordan Belfort is initially furious when a *Forbes* magazine profile turns out to be a hatchet job labeling him a "twisted Robin Hood who takes from the rich and gives to himself and his merry band of brokers."

But Belfort (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) is quickly schooled on the rules of publicity. The next morning, his office is overrun with rabid young brokers desperately waving résumés, dying to join his merry band. The reaction to director Martin Scorsese's portrait of Belfort's hedonistic high a little too much, or if tapping into the thrill of self-indulgence is actually the point. "Belfort does it because he can," [director Martin] Scorsese said. "If you can do anything because you can, what are we as people? Can we easily fall into it? I think so."

Nearly every film critic and countless moviegoers have weighed in on the morality of "The Wolf of Wall Street": whether the film enjoys Belfort's hedonistic high a little too much, or if tapping into the thrill of self-indulgence is actually the point. "Belfort does it because he can," [director Martin] Scorsese said. "If you can do anything because you can, what are we as people? Can we easily fall into it? I think so."

'Gravity', '12 Years a Slave' lead nominees for UK film awards

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

The space thriller "Gravity," the unflinching slavery saga "12 Years a Slave" and the crime caper "American Hustle" gained awards-season momentum Wednesday with stacks of nominations for the British Academy Film Awards, Britain's equivalent

of the Oscars.

"Gravity" received nominations in 11 categories, including best picture and lead actress, for Sandra Bullock.

"12 Years" received 10 nominations, including nods for star Chiwetel Ejiofor, supporting performers Lupita Nyong'o and Michael Fassbender and director Steve McQueen.

"I continue to be immensely proud of the recognition this film is getting around the world," said British actor Ejiofor, who plays a free black man kidnapped into slavery in the 19th-century United States.

"There is, of course, something particularly special about receiving a BAFTA nomination from home," he said.

can, what are we as people? Can we easily fall into it? I think so."

The largest missive came when LA Weekly published an open letter by Christina McDowell, the daughter of a lawyer Belfort worked with, in which she described the hard realities of those victimized by the shady penny stock dealings of Belfort. "Your film is a reckless attempt at continuing to pretend that these sorts of schemes are entertaining, even as the country is reeling from yet another round of Wall Street scandals," McDowell wrote.

To the critics of "The Wolf of Wall Street," the film fails to sufficiently judge the actions of its characters or depict the victims of Belfort's recklessness. The Wall Street Journal's Joe Morgenstern called the film a "hollow spectacle." It should be noted, though, that the Journal's dismissal might be considered a badge of honor for a movie about Wall Street.

And since the movie is based on Belfort's memoir, the former broker (who was convicted of fraud and served 22 months in prison) has profited from the making of the film. He also makes a brief cameo.

The backlash, though, may be taking indignation for Belfort (who received a relatively soft sentence after giving evidence against his colleagues) and misplacing it on the movie. In an interview, Leonardo DiCaprio called the film "a biography of a scumbag."

"I understood how Jordan must have felt," DiCaprio said. "These people idolizing you even though I'm preaching to them about screwing people over to its ultimate degree."

"American Hustle" also was nominated in 10 categories, while Somali hijacking story "Captain Phillips" received nine nods.

Liberate biopic "Behind the Candelabra" and Mary Poppins story "Saving Mr. Banks" each got five nominations.

For a complete list of nominations, visit awards.bafta.org/award/2014/film

Timberlake, Thicke have top-selling album, song

Justin Timberlake and Robin Thicke owned 2013 in music.

Nielsen Entertainment announced late Tuesday that Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience" was the top-selling album with 2.4 million units sold. Thicke's ubiquitous "Blurred Lines" was the best-selling song with 6.4 million tracks sold.

Albums sales were down. Only 289.4 million albums were sold in 2013, compared with 316 million a year before. Single tracks also saw a decrease, by 6 percent. Streaming, however, was up 32 percent with 118.1 million streams. The sales figures include data from YouTube, Spotify and other digital outlets. Bauer's "Harlem Shake" topped the year with 489,674,000 streams.

New releases from Eminem and Luke Bryan rounded out the top three albums. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' "Thrift Shop" and Imagine Dragons' "Radioactive" placed second and third on the singles list.

Other news

■ Lily Tomlin's publicist Jennifer Allen told media outlets Tuesday that the actress and comedian married Jane Wagner in a private ceremony New Year's Eve in Los Angeles.

■ PBS and WGBH-TV announced Monday that the fourth-season debut of "Downton Abbey" attracted 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen Fast National data. This audience improves upon the viewership of the third-season premiere by 22 percent.

■ Clear Channel Media and Entertainment has decided to start a festival geared toward country fans. The first iHeartRadio Country Festival will be March 29 in Austin, Texas, with Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Eric Church, Carrie Underwood, Lady Antebellum and Florida Georgia Line performing. The show will stream online.

■ Fulton County, Ga., sheriff's officials say rapper Young Jeezy surrendered last week on charges including false imprisonment and battery. According to Fulton County jail records, the rapper is free on \$45,000 bond.

From wire reports

Audience to get lucky

For Duff Punk's upcoming Grammy performance Jan. 26, they are bringing along guest artists Pharrell Williams, guitarist Nile Rodgers and R&B legend Stevie Wonder, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.



BUSINESS/WEATHER

Bank to pay \$1.7B in Madoff case

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For more than 15 years, there were signs something was amiss with what federal prosecutors in Manhattan call the “703 account” at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Money was being transferred back and forth for no reason. The account holder was recording double-digit returns on investments that were too good to be true. The bank itself was worried enough about possible fraud to withdraw its own investments from him.

The name on the account was Bernard Madoff, and on Tuesday, JPMorgan paid a steep price for keeping quiet about its suspicions.

Federal authorities announced that the nation's largest bank will add to its other costly financial woes by forfeiting a record \$1.7 billion to settle criminal charges alleging it turned a blind eye to the Madoff fraud, plus pay an ad-

ditional \$543 million to settle civil claims by victims. It also will pay a \$350 million civil penalty for what the Treasury Department called "critical and widespread deficiencies" in its programs to prevent money laundering and other suspicious activity.

The bank failed to carry out its legal obligations to guard against money laundering while Madoff "built his massive house of cards," George Venizelos, head of the FBI's New York office, said at a news conference.

Madoff banked at JPMorgan through what court papers referred to as the "703 account." In 2008, the bank's London desk circulated a memo describing JPMorgan's inability to validate his trading activity or custody of assets and his "odd choice" of a one-man accounting firm, the government said.

In late October 2008, it filed a suspicious activity report with British officials. In the weeks

that followed, JPMorgan withdrew about \$300 million of its own money from Madoff feeder funds. The fraud was revealed when Madoff was arrested in December 2008.

"Despite all these alarm bells, JPMorgan never closed or even seriously questioned Madoff's Ponzi-enabling 703 account," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said. "On the other hand, when it came to its own money, JPMorgan knew how to connect the dots and take action to protect itself against risk."

In a statement, JPMorgan said it recognized it "could have done a better job pulling together various pieces of information and concerns about Madoff from different parts of the bank over time."

It added, "We do not believe that any JPMorgan Chase employee knowingly assisted Madoff's Ponzi scheme."

Prosecutors called the \$1.7 billion the largest forfeiture by

a U.S. bank and the largest Department of Justice penalty for a Bank Secrecy Act violation.

The settlement includes a so-called deferred prosecution agreement that requires the bank to acknowledge failures in its protections against money laundering but also allows it to avoid criminal charges.

No individual executives were accused of wrongdoing.

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 7, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	+105.84 16,530.94
Nasdaq composite	+39.50 4,153.18
Standard & Poor's 500	+11.11 1,837.88
Russell 2000	+10.47 1,157.63

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 9)	\$1.395
Dollar buys (Jan. 9)	€0.716
British pound (Jan. 9)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Jan. 9)	102.0
South Korean won (Jan. 9)	1 038.0

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.644
Canada (Dollar)	1.080
China (Yuan)	6.051
Denmark (Krone)	5.485
Egypt (Pound)	6.952
	\$1.360 / 0.735
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.754
Hungary (Forint)	220.7
Israel (Shekel)	3.502
Japan (Yen)	104.8
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.282
Norway (Krone)	6.190
Philippines (Peso)	44.7
Poland (Zloty)	3.70
Romania (Leu)	2.750
Singapore (Dollar)	1.270
South Korea (Won)	1,065.7
Switzerland (Franc)	0.909
Thailand (Baht)	33.0
Turkey (Lira)	2.179

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency to one dollar, except for the British pound which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.00
3-month bill	0.00
30-year bond	3.80

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**THURSDAY IN EUROPE**

FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wtht	Chann	53	61	City	For	27	24	Snow	50	43	City	Pocatello	25	30	Snow	Shreveport	55	45	Rain	
Abilene, Texas	52	51	City	Cheyenne	40	23	City	Fresno	61	37	PCity	Lubbock	42	30	City	Portland, Maine	26	13	City	Sioux City	72	16	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	45	25	City	Chattanooga	36	21	City	Grand Rapids	39	23	City	Madison	18	14	City	Providence	30	20	City	South Bend	25	23	City
Albany, N.Y.	26	15	City	Cincinnati	36	31	City	Grand Rapids	23	23	City	Medford	40	35	City	Pueblo	49	22	City	Spokane	36	31	City
Albuquerque	48	29	City	Cleveland	27	25	City	Green Bay	43	25	City	Meriden	39	25	City	Rapid City	44	22	City	Springfield, Ill.	37	23	City
Albuquerque	48	29	City	Columbia, S.C.	42	36	City	Green Bay	17	13	PCity	Miami Beach	82	72	City	Rego City	44	23	PCity	Springfield, Mo.	37	32	City
Amarillo	48	33	City	Columbus, Ga.	49	39	City	Greensboro, N.C.	43	33	City	Midland-Odesa	59	45	City	Reno	45	24	City	Syracuse	75	17	PCity
Anchorage	24	19	City	Columbus, Ohio	49	39	City	Hartford	28	17	City	Monroe	42	30	City	St. Louis	42	24	City	Tampa	76	64	City
Anchorage	24	19	City	Concord, N.H.	24	9	City	Hartford	28	17	City	Mpls-St Paul	16	13	City	Roanoke	42	30	City	Tampa	76	64	City
Atlanta	44	37	City	Concord, N.H.	24	9	City	Hartford	28	17	City	Mpls-St Paul	16	13	City	Roanoke	42	30	City	Tampa	76	64	City
Atlanta	44	37	City	Concord, N.H.	24	9	City	Hartford	28	17	City	Mpls-St Paul	16	13	City	Roanoke	42	30	City	Tampa	76	64	City
Austin	62	54	City	Dallas-Ft Worth	53	38	City	Honolulu	80	68	PCity	Mobile	58	44	PCity	Rockford	72	21	City	Tenon	33	28	City
Baltimore	36	28	City	Dayton	32	29	City	Houston	66	57	City	Monterey	53	38	PCity	Sacramento	50	36	City	Tucson	63	39	City
Baltimore	36	28	City	Dayton	32	29	City	Houston	66	57	City	Monterey	53	38	PCity	Sacramento	50	36	City	Tucson	63	39	City
Birmingham	50	37	City	Denver	41	21	PCity	Indianapolis	62	57	City	New Orleans	60	47	PCity	St Petersburg	73	64	City	Tupelo	46	37	City
Birmingham	50	37	City	Des Moines	24	21	City	Jackson, Miss.	54	38	City	New York City	33	28	City	St Thomas	85	74	PCity	Waco	57	53	City
Boise	40	25	PCity	Des Moines	24	21	City	Jackson, Miss.	54	38	City	New York City	33	28	City	St Thomas	85	74	PCity	Waco	57	53	City
Boise	40	25	PCity	Des Moines	24	21	City	Jackson, Miss.	54	38	City	New York City	33	28	City	St Thomas	85	74	PCity	Waco	57	53	City
Boston	42	25	PCity	Des Moines	24	21	City	Jackson, Miss.	54	38	City	New York City	33	28	City	St Thomas	85	74	PCity	Waco	57	53	City
Bridgeport	32	22	City	Elkins	38	25	City	Key West	79	73	City	Oklahoma City	42	40	City	San Antonio	67	62	City	Wichita Falls	47	47	City
Brownsville	74	64	City	Erie	38	25	City	Key West	79	73	City	Oklahoma City	42	40	City	San Antonio	67	62	City	Wichita Falls	47	47	City
Buffalo	42	30	City	Erie	38	25	City	Key West	79	73	City	Oklahoma City	42	40	City	San Antonio	67	62	City	Wichita Falls	47	47	City
Burlington, Vt.	12	8	City	Evansville	37	31	Snow	Lansing	22	22	PCity	Pasadena	38	32	Snow	San Jose	60	37	City	Yakima	41	31	City
Burlington, Vt.	12	8	City	Evansville	37	31	Snow	Lansing	22	22	PCity	Pasadena	38	32	Snow	San Jose	60	37	City	Yakima	41	31	City
Carlsbad, Maine	10	-8	City	Fairbanks	37	14	City	Las Vegas	60	29	PCity	Pendleton	48	37	City	San Juan, P.R.	82	68	City	Youngstown	24	24	City
Carlsbad, Maine	10	-8	City	Fairbanks	37	14	City	Las Vegas	60	29	PCity	Pendleton	48	37	City	San Juan, P.R.	82	68	City	Youngstown	24	24	City
Charleston, S.C.	53	41	City	Flagstaff	42	21	PCity	Lincoln	28	21	City	Philadelphia	33	24	City	St Ste Marie	15	12	Snow	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City
Charleston, S.C.	53	41	City	Flagstaff	42	21	PCity	Lincoln	28	21	City	Philadelphia	33	24	City	St Ste Marie	15	12	Snow	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City
Charleston, W.Va.	43	31	City	Ft. Smith	40	24	City	Little Rock	40	36	City	Phoenix	67	46	City	Savannah	55	44	City	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City
Charleston, W.Va.	43	31	City	Ft. Smith	40	24	City	Little Rock	40	36	City	Phoenix	67	46	City	Savannah	55	44	City	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City
Chicago	59	49	City	Glenn Dale	40	24	City	Los Angeles	60	36	City	Portland, Me.	26	13	City	St. Louis	42	24	City	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City
Chicago	59	49	City	Glenn Dale	40	24	City	Los Angeles	60	36	City	Portland, Me.	26	13	City	St. Louis	42	24	City	Lo. Tne. -35	25	25	City

Stripes

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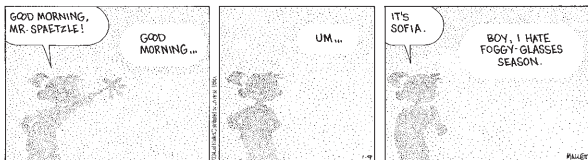
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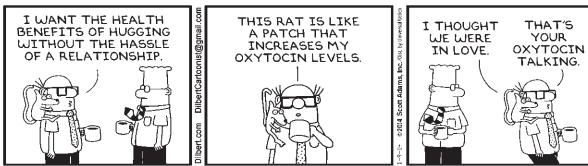
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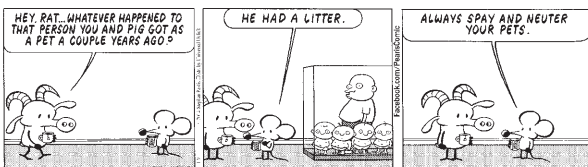
Frazz



Dilbert



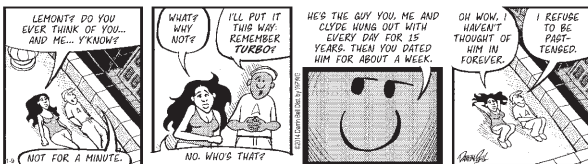
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



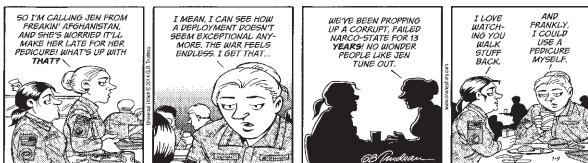
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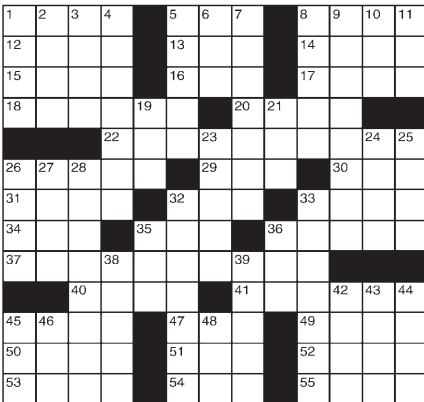
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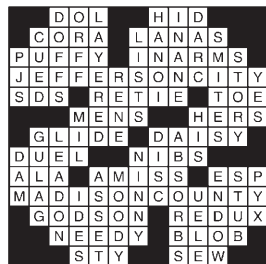
ACROSS

- 1 Slender
- 5 Chest protector?
- 8 Secondhand
- 12 Dry river bed
- 13 Live
- 14 Church section
- 15 Shakespeare's river
- 16 Profit
- 17 War god
- 18 Slender
- 20 Sentence component
- 22 Brains of the operation
- 26 Less
- 29 Symbol of intrigue
- 30 Neither partner
- 31 Grad
- 32 Quill, for one
- 33 Latvia's capital
- 34 Midafternoon hour
- 35 Cookie container
- 36 Friars Club event
- 37 They're made to open anything
- 40 — and crafts
- 41 Wholesale alternative
- 45 Father's Day month
- 47 Trail the pack
- 49 Cartoonist
- 50 Killer whale
- 51 Swelled head

DOWN

- 1 Emulated Michael Phelps
- 2 Stromboli outflow
- 3 "American —"
- 4 Least
- 5 Wedding announcements
- 6 Anger
- 7 Read — the lines
- 8 Relieve of weapons
- 9 Italian island
- 10 First lady
- 11 — Moines
- 12 Petrol
- 21 Sphere
- 23 Dance like Miley
- 24 Yuletide drinks
- 25 "Phooey!"
- 26 Cripple
- 27 Pelvic bones
- 28 Pest
- 32 Garnishing sprig
- 33 Speaker's platform
- 35 Lustrous black
- 36 Catcher's place?
- 38 Kind of mill
- 39 Plant disease
- 42 Emanation
- 43 Sacred wading bird
- 44 For fear that
- 45 Exemplar of patience
- 46 Web address
- 48 Time of your life?

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-9

CRYPTOQUIP

D Q M O S B J G B J Q Z - J H Z
Z S E V H E I S E ' D L D L G N B H Z Q O D
G E S R E S G R V L N , J Q D D B G K S
M G I S Q D B J S K E Q I E G Z Z S E .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER HAD A BAD COUGH, SO HIS WORK BUDDIES WERE WARNING HIM TO STOP HACKING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals I

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- People saying Free DOD (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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Automotive 140

Chevy Truck, 2001, 1998 \$1500.00 Plating out, extended warranty, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 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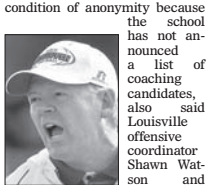
Petrino talks with Louisville

From wire reports

Western Kentucky coach Bobby Petrino talked to Louisville on Tuesday about its top job.

Petrino interviewed with Cardinals athletic director Tom Jurich, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. Jurich is looking for a replacement for Charlie Strong, who took the Texas job over the weekend.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because



Petrino

the school has not announced a list of coaching candidates, also said Louisville offensive coordinator Shawn Watson and defensive coordinator

Vance Bedford are among "several candidates" who have interviewed for the position.

An announcement on Strong's successor could come as early as Thursday morning, when the University of Louisville Athletic Association is scheduled to meet to review Jurich's recommendation for the position.

Petrino, 52, is the most notable name among the known candidates because of his previous coaching success that began at Louisville. He went 41-9 as the Cardinals' coach from 2003-06 and earned the program's first BCS bowl victory his final season there in the Orange Bowl before a 3-10 stint with the NFL's Atlanta Falcons in 2007.

Petrino has an 83-30 career record as a college head coach, including an 8-4 mark last season with the Hilltoppers, his first position since his April 2012 firing by Arkansas amid scandal. The Montana native was dismissed for a "pattern of misbehavior" about a motorcycle accident in which he claimed to be alone before revealing that his mistress was a passenger.



ERIC GAVIAP

Charlie Strong holds up the "Hook'em Horns" hand signal during a news conference on Monday in Austin, Texas where he was introduced as the new football coach at the University of Texas. Strong takes over for Mack Brown, who stepped down last month after 16 seasons.

Booster 'stunned' by Strong pick

By CHUCK CARLTON
Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN, Texas — Much of Charlie Strong's success at Louisville came from an out-of-state recruiting base in Florida.

Strong's philosophy as the new head coach at Texas will be different. He used his introductory news conference Monday to make a sales pitch.

"Nationally, the Texas high school coaches are king," Strong said. "My staff and I will be committed to closing the borders on this great state and making them realize that this is their program. We'll recruit with fire, and we'll recruit with passion."

"We're devoted to making Austin the state capital for college football as well as the state capital of this state."

Texas currently has the No. 12-ranked recruiting class by Rivals.com, which is tops in the Big 12, but behind Texas A&M in-state.

Strong said he wants to target Texas first and, "we'll cherry pick outside the state in Florida

because of the ties that I've had."

One dissenter was billionaire donor Red McCombs, who had lobbied the administration to consider former NFL coach-turned ESPN analyst Jon Gruden.

McCombs described himself as a "little bit stunned" by the news in an interview with San Antonio's KZCD 1250-AM.

"I think the whole thing is a little bit sideways," McCombs said. "I don't have any doubt that Charlie is a fine coach. I think he would make a great position coach, maybe a coordinator."

Strong was the defensive coordinator on two national championship teams at Florida.

McCombs said he was not contacted about the search and felt that he and other donors should have been involved.

"It's a kick in the face. We have boosters who have a lot of knowledge about the game," said McCombs, a former owner of the Minnesota Vikings.

He added that it is a "team player" and would support Strong.

Former coach Mack Brown did

issue a statement Monday endorsing the selection.

"Charlie's a man of integrity and character," Brown said. "I wish him the best. He's had success everywhere he's been and he will do a great job at Texas."

Athletic director Steve Patterson confirmed that Strong has a five-year contract "in the range" of \$5 million annually.

He said Texas is working through paying Strong's \$4.375 million buyout at Louisville.

Strong, a one-time graduate assistant at Texas A&M, was asked about resuming the football rivalry with the Aggies.

The two schools last played in 2011, with A&M then departing for the Southeastern Conference.

"You'd love to," Strong said.

"There are students who played a number of years and you'd like for that to continue. But it's so hard now with the different conferences."

"A lot of people don't want to see that happen right now because of the number of conference games they have to play."

Briefs
Manziel expected to go pro

From wire reports

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel could finally be ready to announce if he will declare for the NFL Draft, as he's widely expected to do.

ESPN reported that Manziel would announce his future plans Wednesday.

A timetable for an announcement either way is still undetermined on A&M's end, according to Jason Cook, senior associate athletics director for external affairs.

The deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL Draft is Jan. 15.

The report comes on the heels of an earlier ESPN report that said Manziel has picked Select Sports Group to represent him.

FSU-Auburn title game draws fewer viewers

PASADENA, Calif. — The BCS title game's wild finish couldn't draw in more television viewers than last year's blowout.

Florida State's 34-31 last-second win over Auburn on Monday was watched by an average of 25.6 million viewers on ESPN. That's down 3 percent from the 26.4 million for Alabama's 42-14 rout of Notre Dame last year.

RB Josey set to leave Missouri for NFL Draft

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri junior running back Henry Josey has declared for the NFL Draft.

Tuesday's announcement comes four days after Josey was the offensive player of the game for the Tigers' Cotton Bowl 41-31 victory over Oklahoma State.

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OLYMPICS

Yzerman unveils Canada's loaded roster for Sochi

The Associated Press

Steve Yzerman and the rest of Hockey Canada spent months looking at the country's top players, trying to figure out the best way to blend talent into a team good enough to win the Olympic gold medal again.

The Hall of Fame player and Hockey Canada executive director kept asking himself the same question as months turned into days and then hours before decisions had to be made.

"I'm trying to cram 17 bodies into 14 spots and I couldn't do that," Yzerman said Tuesday about all those talented forwards.

Clayton Kopp, Martin St. Louis and Joe Thornton — all among the NHL's scoring leaders — didn't make the cut.

"It came down to fit," Yzerman said, declining to say exactly why some standouts were snubbed.

Sidney Crosby, of course, was a lock to make the star-studded team, and the Penguins' standout will have plenty of help when Canada tries to win a second straight gold medal next month in Sochi, Russia.

Crosby, who scored the gold medal-winning goal in 2010 against the U.S., will be joined up front by Jamie Benn, Patrice Bergeron, Jeff Carter, Matt Duchene, Ryan Getzlaf, Chris Kunitz, Patrick Marleau, Rick Nash, Corey Perry, Patrick Sharp, Steven Stamkos, John Tavares and Jonathan Toews.

Jay Bouwmeester, Drew Doughty, Dan Hamhuis, Duncan Keith, Alex Pietrangeli, P.K. Subban, Marc-Edouard Vlcek and Shea Weber will be on defense. Roberto Luongo, Carey Price and Mike Smith will be in goal.

"It is something you dream about as a kid, playing for your country," Weber said. "It's something you don't take for granted."

Giroux was perhaps the most surprising omission. No one born in Canada has more points, entering play Tuesday night, than the Philadelphia Flyers standout since the 2011-12 season. He has bounced back from a slow start this season to rank among NHL leaders in points.

The current team includes 11 players from the Vancouver Games. Thornton, Seabrook, Boyle and Fleury are among the players who were not given a chance to return after being on the team four years ago.

While Canada will likely be favored to win gold again, the host Russians will be among the toughest teams to beat in the 12-country field.

Other contenders

Russia: Washington Capitals winger Alex Ovechkin will lead Russia's hockey team at the Sochi Olympics, with the host country looking to avoid a repeat of its poor performance at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

Pavel Datsyuk of the Detroit Red Wings, Evgeni Malkin of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Nikita Kucherenko of the Toronto Maple Leafs were among 15 NHL play-

ers who made Russia's 25-man roster on Tuesday. Also on the team are former NHL players Alexander Radulov and Ilya Kovalchuk.

The Columbus Blue Jackets' Sergei Bobrovsky, the Colorado Avalanche's Semyon Varlamov and Alexander Yeryomenko of the KHL's Dinamo Moscow will contend for the starting goaltender spot.

Russia lost in the quarterfinals in Vancouver in 2010.

Sweden: The Swedes will go to the Sochi Olympics with a roster almost entirely made up of NHL players, including six from the Detroit Red Wings. Goalie Jonas Gustavsson, defenders Niklas Kronwall and Jonathan Ericsson, and forwards Johan Franzén, Daniel Alfredsson and Henrik Zetterberg lead the list.



RIC ERNST, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE/MCT

Sidney Crosby's overtime goal won gold for Canada in 2010.

Sweden coach Per Marts also picked brothers Daniel and Henrik Sedin of the Vancouver Canucks, Niclas Backstrom of the Washington Capitals and Henrik Tallinder of the Buffalo Sabres.

Goaltender Henrik Lundqvist of the New York Rangers will be competing in his third Olympics.

Sweden lost in the quarterfinals in 2010 in Vancouver after winning gold in 2006 in Turin.

Czech Republic: Jaromir Jagr will play in his fifth Olympics, leading the Czech hockey team in Sochi. Jagr, 41, has had a solid season so far for the New Jersey Devils, with 13 goals and 21 assists in 43 games.

Tomas Plekanec of the Montreal Canadiens will be the captain, while Jagr's teammate Patrik Elias, David Krejci of the Boston Bruins and Jakub Voracek of the Philadelphia Flyers are other top Czech forwards.

Finland: Veteran Teemu Selanne has been selected to play at his sixth Winter Olympics.

The 43-year-old Anaheim

Ducks player has twice been the top scorer at the Olympics and was chosen as the best player at the Turin Games in 2006.

Kari Lehtonen of the Dallas Stars, Tuukka Rask of the Boston Bruins and Antti Niemi of the San Jose Sharks will be Finland's goaltenders in Sochi.

Finland was the bronze medalist at the 2010 Olympics and silver medalist four years earlier.

Slovakia: Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara will captain Slovakia at the Sochi Games. It is hoping to improve on its fourth-place finish in Vancouver.

Other major Slovak stars, including Chicago Blackhawks forwards Michal Handzus and Marian Hossa, and St. Louis Blues goaltender Jaroslav Halak, are also on coach Vladimir Vutjek's 25-man squad.




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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Spartans hand OSU first loss

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State might have a championship-caliber team if it can get and keep its top players healthy.

Keith Appling made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 29 seconds left in overtime and finished with 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds despite playing with cramps in both legs while helping the fifth-ranked Spartans beat No. 3 Ohio State 72-68 Tuesday night after blowing a 17-point lead in the second half.

"Keith was getting worked on during every timeout from half-time on," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said.

Adreian Payne didn't start because of a right foot sprain, but finished with 18 points in 32 minutes.

"I got to talk to the doctors and figure it out," Payne said of his injury.

Gary Harris scored 13 points, but the sophomore shooting guard wasn't able to play up to his potential because of a lingering ankle injury.

Travis Trice, one of the team's top reserves, didn't play because he was "sick," according to Izzo.

Michigan State, which beat then-No. 1 Kentucky nearly two months ago, has won seven straight games since losing to North Carolina.

"It sounds like an excuse, but we are so beat up," Izzo said. "I



Michigan State coach Tom Izzo, left, has words for official Larry Sciroto during the second half of Tuesday's Big Ten matchup.

probably should be happier than I am, I guess, considering the circumstances."

The Spartans (14-1, 3-0 Big Ten) led 55-38 but the Buckeyes forced overtime with a 20-3 run to close regulation.

"We kind of let our foot off the gas," Appling said.

During the collapse, Izzo yelled at Denzel Valentine and grabbed his jersey to turn the sophomore guard toward him during a timeout.

"I talked to [Valentine] about all the fancy stuff and one of these days, he'll figure it out," Izzo recalled, lamenting one of Valentine's turnovers. "Good player. I love him to death. But he's going to learn tough lessons



PHOTOS BY AL GOLDS/AP

Michigan State's Adreian Payne, bottom, Ohio State's Aaron Craft, top, and Shannon Scott, obscured, fight for the ball Tuesday in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State won 72-68 in overtime.

and it would've been a tough lesson if we would've lost the game because we didn't do some of the things we're supposed to do."

Izzo was also upset that junior forward Branden Dawson had just four rebounds — all in the first half — leading to the Buckeyes' outrebounding Michigan State 42-28.

"They killed us on the boards because we had a couple guys who didn't show up," Izzo said.

Ohio State (15-1, 2-1) entered the day as one of six unbeaten teams in Division I, getting off to its best start since 2010-11 when it began 24-0.

The Buckeyes almost ended the night still undefeated after a remarkable comeback.

Aaron Craft had a lot to do with it.

"I'm tired of giving him credit, but he's a warrior and he just wants it so bad," Izzo said.

The senior guard's three-point play with 2:02 left pulled the

Buckeyes within three points. After Ohio State missed shots, Craft dived on the court to get a loose ball and called time out with 1:01 left.

"That's what he does," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "That's how he plays."

On the ensuing inbound play, Craft passed the ball off Payne's backside, got the ball back and made a layup to cut the deficit to one.

"I did that a year ago," Craft said of the savvy play that surprised Payne. "I saw it was open and we wanted to get a quick score."

Payne made one of two free throws on the ensuing possession, allowing Amir Williams' putback dunk with 19 seconds left to tie the game and send it to overtime.

Ohio State scored the first points of the extra period, taking its first lead since it was ahead 19-17, but gave up some pivotal three-pointers.

Michigan State redshirt freshman Kenny Kaminski made a

season-high third three-pointer to break a tie with 2:40 left in overtime and Payne connected on a shot beyond the arc on the Spartans' next possession.

Appling made two free throws with 14.4 seconds left to give Michigan State a three-point lead and Ohio State's Marc Loving missed an off-balance three-pointer with 3 seconds left. Appling made one of two free throws with 1 second to go.

The Buckeyes had a season-high 21 turnovers, didn't have a double-digit scorer until there were under than 4 minutes left in regulation, and gave up 70-plus points for the first time this season. Sam Thompson finished with 18 points, including six straight late in regulation, and Loving scored 10 points.

"I'm proud we came back, but we weren't as sharp as we needed to be in this caliber of a game," Matta said. "You can't come on the road and have 21 turnovers."

Top 25 roundup

'Mismatch nightmare' Kane leads Iowa St. rout

The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Senior point guard DeAndre Kane was supposed to be a one-year stopgap for Iowa State.

Kane has evolved into one of the most versatile players in the country — and the surging Cyclones look like one of the best teams in the nation because of it.

Kane had a season-high 30 points with nine assists, eight rebounds and five steals as No. 9 Iowa State rolled past No. 7 Baylor 87-72 on Tuesday night, setting a school record with its 14th straight win.

"He's a mismatch nightmare out there, when you have a guy who is 6-foot-5, 210 pounds, strong as an ox and he's experienced," Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg said of Kane, who transferred from Marshall in the offseason. "He's a smart player."

Melvin Ejim added 18 points for the Cyclones (14-0, 2-0 Big 12), who outscored Baylor 47-34 in the second half and rolled to a surprisingly decisive win over a fellow Big 12 title contender.

Kane had 17 points in the first half, helping his struggling teammates take a two-point lead. The rest of the Cyclones got on track early in the second half, blowing past

the Bears with a 28-12 run to secure their most impressive win of the season.

"I came here to win," Kane said. "I just wanted to be a part of something special." Gary Franklin and Brady Heslop both had 15 points for Baylor (12-2, 0-1), which saw its win streak snapped at six games.

The Bears, like many teams before them, had no answer for Kane's unique skill set.

He is averaging 16.1 points on 52 percent shooting to go along with 7.1 rebounds and 6.3 assists a game.

"When you see him in person, the size, the strength and the speed. He affects the game in a variety of ways," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "Coming in I heard he was good. But I think he has far surpassed what people might have thought."

Baylor couldn't have asked for a tougher draw to open Big 12 play. The Cyclones had already beaten ranked teams Michigan and Iowa at home this season and entered play 39-3 in Ames since 2011-12.

The Bears hung around until early in the second half, when Iowa State slowly but surely overwhelmed yet another visitor.

No. 2 Syracuse 75, Virginia Tech 52: C.J. Fair scored 17 points and the visiting Orange used a 16-0 run to pull away in the

second half.

Tyler Ennis added 13 points, Jerami Grant had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Trevor Cooley scored 11 points for the Orange (15-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who were making their first visit to Cassell Coliseum since Jan. 30, 1978.

C.J. Barksdale led Virginia Tech (8-6, 1-1) with 12 points and Ben Emelogu and Adam Smith had nine each.

No. 16 Duke 79, Georgia Tech 57: Rodney Hood scored 15 of his 27 points in the second half for the host Blue Devils.

Quinn Cook added 13 points and slumping freshman Jabari Parker had 12 on 4-for-12 shooting for Duke (12-3, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Playing its first game outside the top 10 since November 2007, Hood helped Duke pull away for its 25th straight win at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

No. 25 Kansas St. 65, TCU 47: Thomas Gipson scored 19 points and freshman Marcus Foster added 16 as the Wildcats ran their winning streak to 10 games.

Kansas State (12-3, 2-0 Big 12), which made its way into the Top 25 for the first time this season on Monday, played its first true road game of the season.



CHARLIE NEUBERGER/AP

Iowa State guard DeAndre Kane drives to the basket over Baylor forward Cory Jefferson on Tuesday. Kane scored 30 points in Iowa State's 87-72 victory.

NBA

Roundup

Sacramento holds off Lillard, Portland

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — One swish after another, Damian Lillard pulled Portland closer.

One or two more, and he might've pulled off one of the NBA's most improbable comebacks this season.

DeMarcus Cousins tied a season-high with 35 points to go with 13 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 32 points and the Sacramento Kings held off a furious rally by Lillard to beat the Trail Blazers 123-119 on Tuesday night.

"That's the craziest game I've ever been a part of," Cousins said. "I could not wait until the end. I don't ever want to be in a situation with the ball in Damian Lillard's hands. I'm glad we got the win, but that was a scary thing."

Cousins and Gay provided the spark for a 32-12 run at the end of the third and beginning of the fourth quarters that put Sacramento ahead by 19 points. Gay fouled out with 4:12 remaining, and the Blazers nearly rallied back.

Cavaliers 111, 76ers 93: C.J. Miles set a team record with 10 three-pointers and scored a season-high 34 points, leading host Cleveland to victory.

Miles made eight threes in the first half, when the Cavs opened a 26-point lead that allowed them to coast to a rare easy win. He notched his ninth with 9:53 left and drained No. 10 with 9:17 remaining. He went 10-for-14 from outside the arc.

Warriors 101, Bucks 80: David Lee had 22 points and 18 rebounds to lead visiting Golden State to its 10th straight win.

Lee was 10-for-12 from the field for the Warriors, who have their longest winning streak since their NBA-title season in 1975. Stephen Curry contributed 15 points for the Warriors despite connecting on just 5 of 18 shots. Klay Thompson also scored 15 points.

Spurs 110, Grizzlies 108 (OT): Manu Ginobili scored on a driving layup with 1.8 seconds left in overtime, lifting San Antonio to the road win.

Mike Conley had an opportunity to win the game for Memphis, but his 25-footer fell short.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 24 points, while Marco Belinelli added 19 and Kawhi Leonard had 17.

Heat 107, Pelicans 88: LeBron James scored 32 points and Dwyane Wade had 22 to power host Miami to the win.

It was the 10th 30-point game of the season for James. The Heat are 9-1 when he scores that many.

Chris Andersen was 7-for-7 from the field and scored 15 points, and Chris Bosh added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by 11 points early in the third quarter.

Pacers 86, Raptors 79: Roy Hibbert scored 22 points and Danny Granger matched his sea-

son high with 13, helping host Indiana to its third consecutive win.

The NBA-leading Pacers held the Raptors to a season low in points.

The Raptors were led by DeMar DeRozan with 28 points and Patrick Patterson with 20 against a Pacers team that looked more like itself after losing in Toronto last week.

Nuggets 129, Celtics 98: Randy Foye scored a season-high 23 points, connecting on seven three-pointers, and host Denver routed Boston for its third straight win after an eight-game losing streak.

Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 13 rebounds and Ty Lawson added 19 points and 13 assists for the Nuggets, who sent the Celtics to their fifth loss in a row and reversed a 106-98 loss at Boston on Dec. 6. The Nuggets returned to .500 (17-17) with the victory.

Mavericks 110, Lakers 97: Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Dallas avoided its longest home losing streak in 14 years.

The Mavericks had lost four straight at home, the last victory in their arena coming against Memphis the week before Christmas.

Los Angeles lost for the eighth time in nine games.

Knicks 89, Pistons 85: Car-

melo Anthony scored 13 of his 34 points in the third quarter, and then made the clinching free throws with 2.9 seconds left as host New York handed Detroit a season-high fifth straight loss.

Raymond Felton finished with 12 points and six assists in his return from injury for the Knicks, who came home from a 2-1 Texas swing and held on after blowing most of the 17-point lead they built while outscoring the Pistons 32-17 in the third quarter.

Bulls 92, Suns 87: Taj Gibson had 19 points and 10 rebounds as host Chicago won its first game after parting with Luol Deng in a trade.

Joakim Noah added 14 points and 16 rebounds, helping the Bulls to their sixth victory in eight games. D.J. Augustin and Jimmy Butler each scored 13. Tony Snell added 12 points, including back-to-back three-pointers during an 8-0 run early in the fourth quarter that extended the lead to 13.

Wizards 97, Bobcats 83: Bradley Beal scored 21 points to lead five Washington players in double figures for the road victory.

Marcin Gortat added 18 points and John Wall had 17 for the Wizards. Gortat added 12 rebounds while helping hold Charlotte center Al Jefferson to six points.

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Utah's streak up to 4

MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS

Maddux, Glavine, Thomas make Hall

Pair of 300-game winners and slugger with 500 home runs elected to Cooperstown

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and Frank Thomas have been elected to baseball's Hall of Fame, while Craig Biggio fell two votes short.

The results were announced Wednesday.

Maddux was picked on 555 of 571 ballots by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. His 97.2 percentage was the eighth-highest in the history of voting, behind Tom Seaver (98.84 percent), Nolan Ryan (98.79 percent), Cal Ripken Jr. (98.53 percent), Ty Cobb (98.23 percent), George Brett (98.19), Hank Aaron (97.83) and Tony Gwynn (97.61).

Maddux was thought to have a chance to top Seaver's mark.

"I just have just never come across any human being, whether they're a voter or just a fan, that doesn't think Greg Maddux is a Hall of Famer and one of the greatest pitchers who ever pitched," The Boston Globe's Nick Cafardo said Tuesday. "I can't imagine someone not voting for him."

Eighth on the wins list with a 355-227 record and a 3.16 ERA in 23 seasons, Maddux won four consecutive Cy Young Awards from 1992-95 and a record 18 Gold Gloves with the Chicago Cubs, Atlanta, the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego. An eight-time All-Star, he won at least 13 games in 20 straight seasons.

Among pitchers with 3,000 innings whose careers began in 1921 or later — after the Dead Ball Era — Maddux's 1.80 walks per nine innings is second only to

Robin Roberts' 1.73, according to STATS.

During the strike-shortened 1994 season, Maddux went 16-6 with a career-best 1.56 ERA, which is even more impressive compared to the cumulative NL ERA of 4.21 (the 2.65 differential was the highest ever recorded). The following year he led the Braves to a World Series championship by going 19-2 with a 1.63 ERA even while hitters continued to put up inflated offensive stats (the NL had a 4.18 cumulative ERA) during the Steroids Era.

That gives the right-hander two of the five lowest full-season ERAs since baseball went to the live ball in 1920.

"How good was he?" Cox said when the Braves were retiring Maddux's number is 2009. "Was he the best pitcher I ever saw? Was he the smartest pitcher I ever saw? Was he the best competitor I ever saw? Was he the best teammate I ever saw? The answer is yes to all the above."

Glavine, who appeared on the second most ballots at 91.9 percent, didn't put up numbers quite as impressive as Maddux, but he was a 10-time All-Star and a two-time Cy Young winner, was 305-203 in 22 seasons. He will forever be remembered in Atlanta for pitching one-hit ball for eight innings to beat Cleveland in decisive Game 6 of the '95 World Series. He was MVP of what would be the Braves' lone Series triumph during an unprecedented run of 14 straight division titles.

A two-time AL MVP, Thomas (83.7 percent of the ballots) hit .301 with 521 homers and 1,704 RBIs in 19 seasons with the White



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Braves pitcher Tom Glavine was elected to the Hall of Fame on 91.9 percent of the ballots.

Sox, Toronto and Oakland.

No player was elected to Cooperstown last year, when Biggio topped voting at 68 percent, 39 votes short of the 75 percent needed for election.

Jack Morris, in his 15th and final appearance, fell 78 votes short at 61.5 percent on a crowded ballot.

The Baseball Writers' Association of America hasn't elected more than three in the same year since 1955, when Joe DiMaggio, Gabby Hartnett, Ted Lyons and Dizzy Vance all got in. Surprisingly, it was the third ballot appearance for DiMaggio, who fell 81 votes short in 1953 and 14 shy the following year.

Approximately 600 writers who have been members of the BBWAA for 10 consecutive years at any point considered the 36-player ballot.

Next year's ballot could be even more crowded when Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz, Carlos Delgado and Gary Sheffield become eligible, five years after their retirements.

Briefly

Dolphins part ways with GM Ireland

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Jeff Ireland is out after six seasons as general manager of the Miami Dolphins, who failed to reach the playoffs the past five years.

In a brief announcement Tuesday, Ireland and owner Stephen Ross said they mutually agreed to part ways. Ireland had been unpopular with fans for several years, and a late-season collapse by the team last month left his job in jeopardy.

The Dolphins, who finished 8-8, said they would conduct an immediate search for a replacement to lead football operations.

Still to be determined is Ireland's role in a locker-room bullying scandal that drew national scrutiny. The NFL has yet to release a report on its investigation into the case.

Ireland's departure follows Monday's firing of offensive coordinator Mike Sherman. Coach Joe Philbin will return for a third season, but other changes in his staff are possible.

The Dolphins would have made the playoffs if they had won one of their final two games against the Bills and Jets. Instead, they were beaten by a combined score of 39-7.

Allen to return as Raiders coach

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Coach Dennis Allen will be part of the reconstruction of the Oakland Raiders after spending his first two years overseeing the destruction.

Allen is scheduled to meet Wednesday with owner Mark Davis and general manager Reggie McKenzie to map out plans for how to rebuild the struggling franchise after consecutive four-win seasons to begin his tenure. Oakland has gone 11 straight

seasons without a playoff berth or winning record and has an NFL-worst 123 losses since the start of 2003.

In other NFL news:

■ The Houston Texans have fired 16 assistant coaches, including defensive coordinator Wade Phillips and offensive coordinator Rick Dennison, following the recent hiring of coach Bill O'Brien.

■ The Atlanta Falcons announced that former Vikings head coach Mike Tice will be their new offensive line coach.

Footage: Schumacher skiing off trail in crash

ALBERTVILLE, France — Two minutes of footage from a camera on Michael Schumacher's ski helmet showed the Formula One great was clearly skiing off a groomed trail when he lost his balance and crashed, leaving him with critical head injuries, investigators said Wednesday.

The investigators said they have ruled out problems with his skis, trail conditions or signage. Although they would not estimate Schumacher's speed, they said it was not considered a significant factor in the Dec. 29 crash at Meribel in the French Alps.

"His pace was completely normal for a skilled skier," said Lt. Col. Benoit Vinneman.

Schumacher, 45, the most successful Formula One driver in history, is still in critical condition in a medically induced coma at a hospital in Grenoble. The impact of the crash split his helmet in two and doctors say the protective gear saved his life.

Prosecutor Patrick Quinicy said experts still need to go through the footage image by image, but he said Schumacher landed 9 meters (30 feet) outside the marked trail after falling face down and striking his head on a rock.

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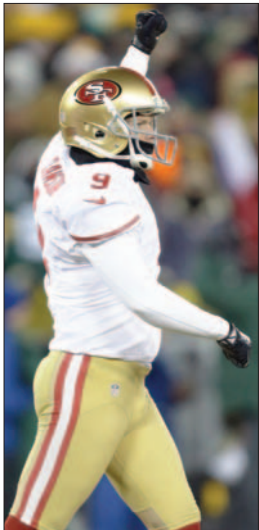
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NFL PLAYOFFS

Niners' Dawson savoring first playoff win



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

49ers kicker Phil Dawson's 33-yard field goal as time expired Sunday against the Packers earned him his first playoff victory in 15 years.

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Phil Dawson walked off the field in triumph, his left hand still raised in the freezing air.

San Francisco's veteran kicker waited 15 years for his first playoff victory. And 11 years to return to the postseason after his lone previous trip after 2002 with Cleveland.

What a memorable day Dawson had Sunday, kicking the winning 33-yard field goal in the bitter cold as time expired at Green Bay, sending the 49ers (13-4) into the NFC divisional round this weekend at Carolina.

"This is fun, it's been a long time coming," Dawson said Tuesday. "To be around this kind of locker room and these kind of coaches, where this isn't a surprise, this is expected, this is what everything's geared for all year long, it's fun to be a part of that."

Even given single-digit temperatures that made for challenging playing conditions, coach Jim Harbaugh said he would have let Dawson go for it with the game on the line from as far out as 53 yards.

Dawson was thrilled he could kick from 20 yards closer.

As steady as Dawson has been in his first season with San Francisco — delivering on 32 of 36 field goals and making a franchise-record 27 in a row before the streak ended Dec. 29 at Arizona — even he knew nothing was guaranteed kicking on the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field.

Dawson had long envisioned such a moment, unsure whether he would get his shot with a playoff game on the line.

"I'd like to say yes, but I never really knew," Dawson said. "I've watched way too much playoff football at home. I'd see

'He continues to bring value each and every week.'

Vernon Davis

San Francisco 49ers tight end

games, not necessarily all game-winning situations but a big kick would come up, maybe it was bad weather, a hostile environment or whatever the case may be, and I just quietly wondered, 'I wonder how I would handle that?' I put the work in to be prepared if that day ever came. It came for me Sunday, and it was fun to have an opportunity and experience winning with my teammates."

Dawson departed Cleveland after 14 seasons for a fresh, winning start out West. A fan favorite for the Browns, his former city is happy for him now as hard as it was to see Dawson go.

"I was never bitter. I was very happy where I was, very grateful to play all the years I did in Cleveland," he said. "I would have loved to experience this with the people there. That's a city starved for playoff success. They're going to get it someday, and I'll be very happy for them when that day comes."

Now, the Niners are expected to re-sign him when his one-year contract expires. Dawson has said he would love to be back, while Harbaugh has said he will work on keeping Dawson around — saying a couple of weeks back, "Pay the man."

"I'm one of his biggest fans," linebacker Patrick Willis said. "That guy is amazing. Dawson wants to cherish this opportu-

nity, realizing how fleeting success can be, perhaps even more so as an NFL specialist at this late stage of his career."

"He continues to bring value each and every week," tight end Vernon Davis said Tuesday. "He's been clutch for us. I'm happy for him, and I'm happy to have him on this team as we continue to move forward. I look forward to seeing him help us."

Dawson, who turns 39 on Jan. 23, credits everyone for doing their job in such tough circumstances — from the offense getting him closer to rookie long snapper Kevin McDermott and holder Andy Lee.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick's 11-yard run on third-and-8 set up Dawson's winning kick, which was nearly blocked.

"I think I walked away from that with the reality that every field goal, you're inches away from it being blocked," Dawson said.

Once back in the locker room, Harbaugh and Dawson spent a quiet moment together following a team prayer. The coach could sense the importance of Dawson's accomplishment to the kicker.

"You could tell he's just happier maybe than he'll ever be and he'll remember that for many years to come," Harbaugh said. "The story the good man shall teach his son. And he'll remember it. When he's old, he'll feel very good about that, what he accomplished. It was just a great moment. Just eye-to-eye looking, knee-to-knee looking at him. That was why I was so ecstatic."

Dawson is determined to help keep this postseason run going. This week, his wife and three children will travel from their home in Texas to be in the stands.

"To be here, it's just been a tremendous ride, it's been a special season," Dawson said. "I don't want it to end any time soon."

Saints eager to prove mettle in return trip to loud Seattle

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

METATRIE, La. — Ever since getting pounded by the Seahawks early last month, the New Orleans Saints have learned to love the idea of going back to Seattle.

Coach Sean Payton has even had Seahawks logos painted on their outdoor and indoor practice fields.

"I feel like coach Payton is putting us in the moment, you know, visualize this is where we're going, this is what we're going to do and this is how it's going to look," linebacker and defensive captain Curtis Lofton said Tuesday. "That's how I took it. Be in the moment, because this moment doesn't come around too often."

In one respect, the moment is coming around for the second time since Dec. 2, when the Seahawks' 34-7 victory over New Orleans put Seattle in the driver's seat for the NFC's No. 1 seed and home advantage throughout the playoffs.

This time, of course, the stakes are significantly higher. The winner of Saturday's divisional round playoff game advances to the NFC championship against either Carolina or San Francisco.

After the first meeting, New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees said prophetically that if the Saints wanted to reach the Super Bowl, they'd probably have to return to Seattle in the playoffs.

Brees said the message was: "If we want to accomplish what we set out to accomplish this year then we better find a way to go there and win, and just hoping that we'd have another opportunity. And here we are, having that opportunity."

The Saints' offense, which ranked No. 4 in the NFL this season, was unable to approach its usual standard against the Seahawks in Week 13.

New Orleans' seven points tied their lowest scoring output since Payton, who designed the offense, took over in 2006. The Saints' 188 total yards were their fewest of the Payton era, and Brees' 147 yards passing were his second fewest as a Saint.

"There are a lot of things about that game that we walk away from and say, 'Man, that was not us,'" Brees said. "We've got to give a lot of credit to [Seattle] because... they forced us to be that way. But then again, there's a lot of things that we know we can correct and

get better at, and I feel like we have."

Safety Malcolm Jenkins said the Saints may have overthought their previous visit to Seattle because of how famously loud the Seahawks' home field is. Players wore custom-made ear plugs and coaches used flip cards on the sideline to communicate.

"We did put a lot of thought into going to Seattle" the first time, Jenkins said. "I don't think we'll put as much thought into all those small details this time, but we know it's a tough place to play."

Zach Strief said experience tells him it is generally hard to beat NFL teams twice in one season because the talent gap is usually pretty thin.

"It's nice to get an opportunity to play a team that beat you like that again. And look, we got exactly what we deserved, and they got what they deserved. They played better than us, and we didn't execute," Strief said. "But I don't think you carry the sins of old games into this one. They don't start up six points because they won last time."

Likewise, Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman said he



ANDRE L. SMITH NEWS-JOURNAL/AP

Saints tight end Jimmy Graham is brought down before losing the football against the Eagles last week. The Saints' offense was No. 4 in the NFL this season, but struggled against the Seahawks in Week 13. New Orleans hopes to fare better Saturday in a playoff rematch.

doubts the Saints' confidence would remain shaken by the previous meeting.

"Anything can happen in the playoffs," Sherman said. "They are a great experienced, seasoned playoff team. The previous result really has no bearing in this game."

Sherman was less sure of what to make of Seahawks logos on Saints practice fields.

"I guess that is a way of getting prepared and being in a similar environment," Sherman said. "It is hard to imitate the environment that our fans and our stadium create."

NFL



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck dives in for a 5-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown during the second half of last week's wild-card playoff game the Chiefs. Luck has already beaten Peyton Manning and pulled off the second-greatest comeback in playoff history. On Saturday, the second-year quarterback will try to upstage three-time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady on his home turf.

Luck faces test in Pats' Brady

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Growing up, Andrew Luck tried to emulate the NFL quarterbacks he watched on Sunday afternoons, players like Peyton Manning and Phillip Rivers.

And Tom Brady. Now, the 24-year-old Indianapolis Colts quarterback is about to face his next big test — trying to beat Brady on his home turf with a trip to the American Football Conference championship game on the line.

"I think there are so many quarterbacks that do so many great things that as a quarterback you'd like to watch all of them and say, 'They do this so well,' and see if you can do that," Luck said Tuesday.

His next chance comes Saturday night when the Colts (12-5) travel to New England (12-4).

Luck has already done his part to live up to the seemingly impossible standards that came with replacing Manning in Indianapolis. He has thrown for more yards (8,196) in his first two seasons

than any quarterback in NFL history. His 22 regular-season wins rank second to Russell Wilson among all second-year quarterbacks since 1970, and with nine career rushing touchdowns, he already ranks fourth on the team's career list behind only Manning (17), Bert Jones (14) and John Unitas (13) — all previous Most Valuable Players.

Even when it comes to measuring up to Manning, Luck has done remarkably well.

In October, he beat Manning in their first head-to-head meeting. And he rallied Indianapolis to the second-greatest comeback in playoff history last weekend, getting his first postseason win four seasons earlier than Manning's. A win over the Patriots (12-4) would give Luck the same total of playoff wins over Brady than Manning — one. But that's not what motivates him.

"He studies so much tape and prepares himself so well that he's able to identify and see things, even if it was a year ago," coach Chuck Pagano said. "He's got that, probably what Tom has and what Peyton has and all the great

ones have, is the ability to identify and see things and put things behind him and move on."

On Saturday night, the Colts and Patriots will renew what has been one of the NFL's fiercest rivalries over the last decade.

Brady won his first six starts against the Colts, a span that included two playoff games. Manning answered by winning five of the next six, including the 2006 AFC championship game when he rallied Indy from an 18-point deficit. Brady and the Patriots have won the last three, including last year's forgettable 59-24 rout in frosty New England when Luck was picked off three times and lost a fumble.

To Luck, Saturday's game is all about advancing in the playoffs against a team and quarterback that have played their best football when it matters most.

"He has definitely set the standard for success," Luck said of Brady. "The way he handles himself, watching from afar, the competitive nature and basically all the right things he does. Yeah, I guess he is a barometer and he is the standard."

Bolts must solve Manning again

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — To keep their improbable playoff run going, the San Diego Chargers will have to beat Peyton Manning in January for the third time in seven seasons.

The Chargers won 27-10 at Cincinnati on Sunday to earn a shot at Manning and the top-seeded Denver Broncos on Sunday, the first time the AFC West rivals have met in the postseason.

When Manning was with Indianapolis, the Chargers eliminated the Colts from the playoffs in the 2007 and '08 seasons.

Manning has beaten the Chargers three of four times since joining the Broncos, although the Chargers pulled a shocker in Denver last month.

"It's tough to say you're confident knowing what you're facing against. You don't want to take that the wrong way," Pro Bowl safety Eric Weddle said Monday. "Do we believe we can win? Yes. Do we know what a tough challenge it is and how great we have to play? Yeah. It's not just because it's happened in the past it's going to happen. You still have to play at a high level and do the things necessary as a team to win."

The Chargers beat Manning and the Colts in a divisional playoff game after the 2007 season, with Weddle getting one of San Diego's two interceptions. In 2008, the Chargers won the AFC West at 8-8 and hosted the Colts in a wild-card game, winning on Darren Sproles' 22-yard run in overtime.

Until Sunday's win in Cincinnati, that had been the Chargers' last playoff victory.

"I've always appreciated and look forward to, as a fan of his growing up, to go against a Peyton Manning-led team," Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said. "Obviously, I and our offense is playing that defense, so I've never felt like I was playing him, but it's always awesome and exciting. The teams that we've both been on have had awesome games, and games have come down to the wire, overtime playoff games and our two games this year were really tight."

"I know they got a big lead in the first one, but we had a chance late, and we were able to win last time there. So it's going to be what you'd expect, I'm sure. It's going to be loud and it's going to be what playoff football is meant to be."

The Broncos beat the Chargers 20-10 in San Diego on Nov. 10. That came during a stretch of four losses in five games that dropped San Diego to 5-7.

The Chargers stunned the Broncos 27-20 in Denver on Dec. 12 during a four-game winning streak that, coupled with a lot of help from other teams, allowed the Bolts to sneak off with the AFC's final playoff berth.

With Ryan Mathews running for 127 yards, the Chargers kept Manning on the sideline most of the game. When the Broncos had the ball, San Diego's defense frustrated Manning.

So now the Chargers go back to Denver to face a record-setting offense led by Manning, who set NFL records with 55 TD passes and 5,447 yards through the air.

"Well, we have been the underdog all year," Weddle said. "I have been the underdog my whole life, so it is no different. We are out to continue to believe in ourselves. The great thing about this team is the struggles and the ups and downs have really molded us into what we are right now, which is a confident belief in each other. We are going to stick by each other. We really have a sense and a belief that we are us and we could care less what the outside thinks of us."

"It's great to be a part of, because we know everyone is focused on each other and getting better and ultimately to play the best we can. When you are worried about the outside, your play suffers and it clouds your mind a little bit. It has been a joy to be a part of this team and to see our growth. We have an ultimate challenge this week, but we are excited for it."

Rivers said the Chargers need to remember how hard and well they played on both sides of the ball at Denver last month and how they capitalized inside the 20.

"All those things are the reasons we won. We didn't just go in there and win. So it's going to be hard," Rivers said. "They're a No. 1 seed for a reason. This is a heck of a team and it's rare to play an opponent three times in a season and being a division opponent, one we know well, they know us well. It's going to be awesome."



KENT NISHIMURA, COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/MCT

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, left, shakes hands and chats with Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers after a 27-20 Chargers victory on Dec. 12. The Chargers will face Manning again on Sunday in an NFC divisional playoff game.

SPORTS



Another unbeaten beaten
Spartans hand Buckeyes first loss
College basketball, Page 26

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Head of the class

Maddux top vote-getter among inductees
that include Glavine, Thomas **Page 29**

Wins

355

Losses

227

Hits

4,726

Runs

1,981

Walks

999

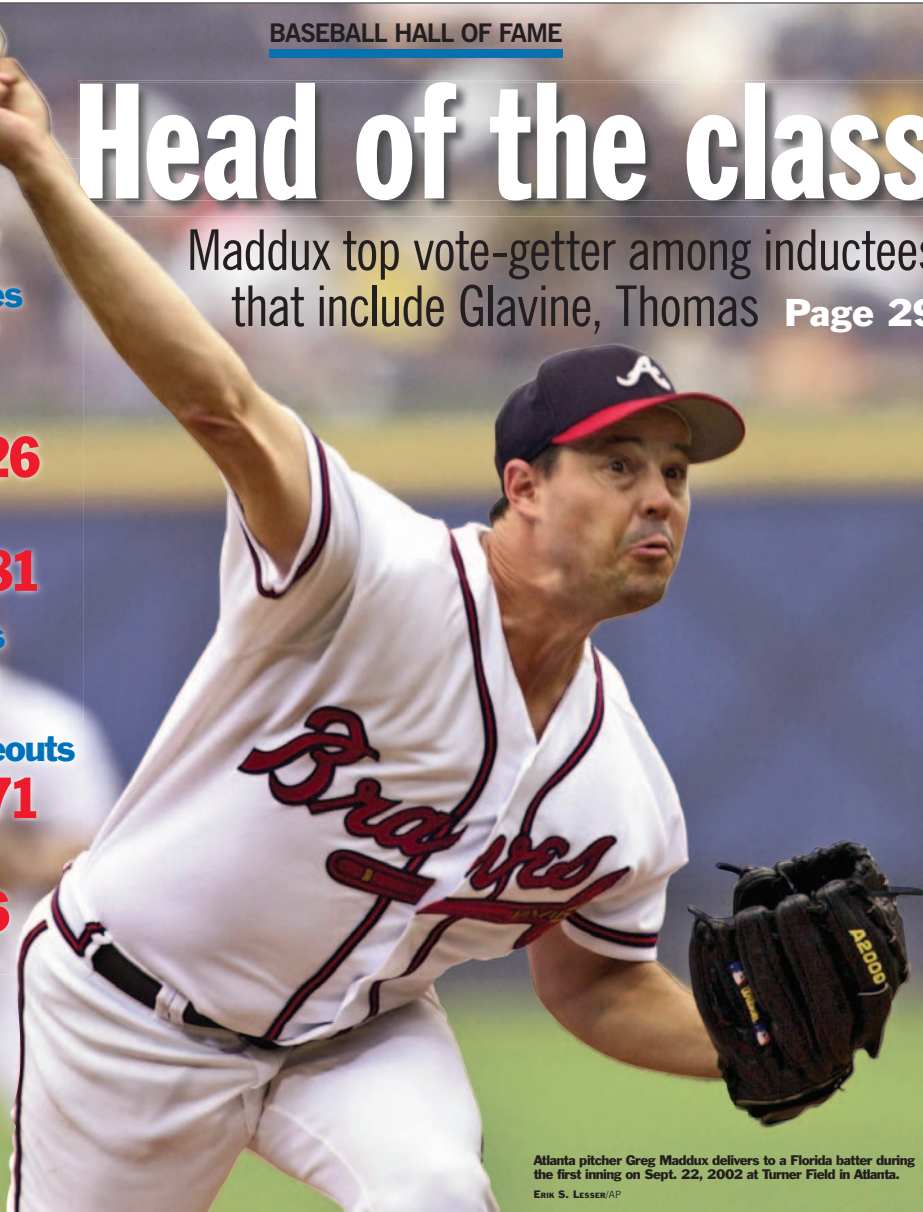
Strikeouts

3,371

ERA

3.16

SOURCE: MLB.com



Atlanta pitcher Greg Maddux delivers to a Florida batter during the first inning on Sept. 22, 2002 at Turner Field in Atlanta.

ERIK S. LESSER/AP

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Booster stunned by Texas coach's hiring
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